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WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY
MICHAEL CANON
PREFILED TESTIMONY
EXHIBIT NO. 48.01R

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of Application 2009-01: WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY, LLC; WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT	EXHIBIT NO. 48.01r
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**INTERVENOR KLICKITAT COUNTY PUBLIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PRE-FILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY
KCEPDA WITNESS #1: MICHAEL CANON**

Q What is the purpose of this rebuttal testimony?

A I am testifying in response to the pre-filed direct testimony of Mr. Dean Apostol and Mr. Robert J. Michaels.

Q Are you able to answer questions on cross-examination about this testimony?

A Yes.

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Q What is your response to the testimony of Apostol regarding regulation of lands outside the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA) under the NSA legislation (Act)?

A This is precisely what the KCPEDA feared as reflected in my direct pre-filed testimony. The position advanced by Apostol does violence to the express language of the Act itself by trying to apply it beyond the NSA boundaries, and is in derogation of the compromises that were made locally and with Congress in order to garner necessary for support of the Act in the first instance.

Q Can you please identify what has been marked at Exhibit 42.02r?

Q Yes. This is a letter signed by all three Klickitat County Commissioners, send to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture urging him to support renewable energy and oppose the expansion of the effect of the NSA Act to areas beyond the boundaries of the Act.

Q What are possible effects on Klickitat County if the Act is expanded outside the NSA through this adjudication?

A Klickitat County will be adversely affected economically. As can be seen by the letter itself, we already have landowners here in the county who had negotiated with wind developers for turbines on their property in exchange

1 for revenues to those landowners. Out of fear of lawsuits and appeals from
2 special interest groups to expand the NSA and apply it to lands outside its
3 boundary in order to stop visible wind development, those agreements have
4 been reduced. Our landowners will now receive fewer turbines and less
5 revenue because the wind industry developers are afraid of later lawsuits
6 based on precedent that could be established by EFSEC in this adjudication
7 regarding expansion of the NSA Act.

8
9 This loss of turbines also affects the tax base in Klickitat County. Fewer
10 turbines mean lower revenues, which will impact every agency and special
11 taxing district in this jurisdiction.

12
13 Q Are there other effects to Klickitat County as a result of FOCG's support of
14 the Apostol interpretation regarding expanded application of the NSA Act?

15
16 A Yes. The wind industry does not just generate revenue to landowners and tax
17 base to the county. It creates jobs. In a recent publication by the Columbia
18 Gorge Community College, it was predicted that this industry will generate up
19 to 700 jobs in the next 5 to 10 years.¹ The WREP is a part of that jobs
20 forecast. Skamania County's interest in those jobs will be addressed by other
21 witnesses in this proceeding. However, Klickitat County is also a beneficiary
22 of many of those jobs. Expansion of the NSA Act would have a chilling effect
23 on wind energy technician jobs growth in this county.

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25 ¹
26 <http://www.cgcc.cc.or.us/Academics/documents/RenewableEnergyIndustryNeedsAssessment2009FinalReport.pdf>

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If wind development on areas that can be seen from inside the NSA but which lie outside its boundary is banned by EFSEC on the basis of the NSA Act, I expect that precedent to be immediately invoked here in Klickitat County to stop wind projects on more lands outside the NSA.

Q Does the Michaels testimony discuss any of these adverse economic impacts to Klickitat County?

A Not at all.