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60 Moe Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926
June 25, 2018

To: Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Stephen Posner, EFSEC Manager
EFSEC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250

In regards to the Tuusso Energy-Columbia Solar Project
and specifically Penstemon Site

Dear Members of the Council,

I am again writing as a land-owner and long-time resident of Kittitas County and a member of the now-defunct Solar Facilities Citizen Advisory Committee as we completed our work earlier in the spring. Our draft regulations were drawn up after many meeting and countless hours. A large part of the effort was striving to acquire the knowledge to address the issues adequately. It appears a county ordinance is close to being enacted. It would be satisfying to have these efforts recognized as being the will of the citizens of Kittitas County in the matter of solar facilities.

As regards to the individual sites under consideration, I would like to speak in opposition to the proposed Penstemon site because it lies on high quality irrigated agricultural land (on the southeast corner of Tjossem and Moe Roads.) Over sixty years ago, I became part of a farm family which farmed a quarter section on the southwest corner of Tjossem and Moe Roads. We also leased more acreage immediately south of the proposed Penstemon site for a time. I currently reside on the original home place site, but the family is no longer engaged in farming. These are fertile agricultural lands in this rural neighborhood and were once largely planted to food crops--sugar beets, sweet corn, potatoes, and durum wheat. These lands all have senior water rights from the Ellensburg Water Company which was established in 1885. These water rights are attached to the land so these lands can be in agriculture production even should other irrigation districts have less water available. I believe it is vital to preserve this irrigated farm land for the agricultural production of the future by not locking it into a 30-year lease as a solar facility. I also believe it is essential to preserve the rural character of the neighborhood by not approving a solar facility. I want ESEC to recommend the denial of the Penstemon proposal to the governor, but also the other proposals that are on irrigated farm lands. At no time have I been opposed to solar power, only the appropriate siting for it.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely yours,

Mary L. Christensen