



*Leading the Way*

April 6, 2021

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Manager  
621 Woodland Square Loop, PO Box 43172  
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Re: Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project

Dear Ms. Bumpus,

The Kennewick City Council would like to voice our opposition to the Scout Clean Energy's Horse Heaven Wind Project proposed to be located in unincorporated Benton County and directly adjacent to the City of Kennewick. The strong opposition in our community, approximately 90%, is not surprising when measuring the false premise of reduced carbon emissions and making money for out-of-state investors against the significant harm this project poses to our regional economy and the damage it would bring to our beautiful vistas.

The City of Kennewick is home to 85,000 residents and part of a community within Benton & Franklin Counties, consisting of over 300,000 residents. The citizens in our community value the wonderful parks, hiking trails, and many other outdoor recreation and amenities. Located in the heart of Washington Wine Country, our region relies on the tourism economy. The Red Mountain American Viticulture Area is home to rolling vineyards and estate wineries with incredible views of the Horse Heaven Hills.

The proposed project is located only 4 miles south of the City of Kennewick and the greater Tri-Cities Region, one of the largest urban areas in Eastern Washington. We have heard from our citizens that they do not support this project. They have expressed a wide range of concerns including, the project will negatively affect our environment; specifically the natural area enjoyed by our region, loss of habitat and agriculture, negative impacts to wildlife, concerns relating to health and noise, our history and the detrimental impacts on our tourism economy for years to come. Our community cares about preserving the ridges and skylines that we enjoy, which also support our tourism industry.

Additionally as concluded in the Wind Power and Clean Energy Policy Perspectives report dated July 14, 2020 prepared by Benton PUD, the City of Kennewick's electric provider; wind power is not needed or beneficial for our community. Wind and solar projects are intermittent energy resources that do not provide any firm energy capacity. The City of Kennewick customers expect reliable energy resources and the City concurs with the technical aspects of the Benton PUD's wind policy perspective.

*Office of the Mayor*



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Benton PUD's current power supply is hydro and nuclear based and is over 93% non-emitting by Washington State standards. Our community is committed to clean energy development, we simply do not believe the Horse Heaven Wind Project is the right fit for our community or the regions energy needs. Our focus should be for new firm electricity need in the coming decade to ensure resource adequacy rather than unreliable wind energy.

The Kennewick City Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project and share our concerns that the Council and our community do not support this project. We concur with Benton County's assessment that this project is not consistent with Benton County's comprehensive plan or the Critical Area Ordinance for Benton County. For all the reasons stated above, please consider this letter as our formal opposition to the Horse Heaven Wind Project.

Respectfully,

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Don Britain, Mayor  
City of Kennewick

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*Office of the Mayor*

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