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May 22, 2023

Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S.
Board of Directors
1360 N. Louisiana Street. #A-175
Kennewick, WA 99336
info@tricityscares.org

Re: Horse Heaven Wind Project – Support for Community Representation by Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S.

Dear Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S Directors,

On behalf of Visit Tri-Cities, the official destination marketing organization for the Tri-Cities community, we would like to express our support for Tri-Cities Community Action for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S.) and their crucial involvement in the adjudication process for the Horse Heaven Wind Project.

Tourism is a significant economic driver in the Tri-Cities, and as the primary entity responsible for promoting the destination we are concerned about the potential impact proposed sustainable energy initiatives could have on our community. The State's 2021 State Energy Strategy (SES) highlights the importance of public and community participation in shaping energy policies that are informed by local knowledge, meet local needs, and enjoy the support of the local community. Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S. has consistently championed this principle and played a vital role in ensuring that the voices of our community are heard.

Throughout the adjudication process, Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S. has effectively articulated the concerns of our community and facilitated local participation. They have been instrumental in educating the public and our business community about the potential implications of the Horse Heaven Wind Project. By coordinating written and verbal comments, they have provided a platform for the expression of our collective views. As the sole approved non-regulatory/non-tribal local intervenor in adjudication, Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S. serves as the representative voice of the broader Tri-Cities community and we support your role in reflecting the sentiments of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Lewis".

Kevin Lewis
President & CEO
Visit Tri-Cities

