

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
31<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT  
CATHY DAHLQUIST

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives



EDUCATION  
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TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY  
& COMMUNICATIONS

September 23, 2011

Cindy Bladey  
Chief, Rules, Announcements and Directives Branch  
Office of Administration  
Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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SUBJECT: Support for License Renewal of the Columbia Generating Station  
Operated by Energy Northwest

I regret I am not able to attend the September 27<sup>th</sup> public meeting on the Columbia Generating Station's (Columbia) license renewal application, but I write in strong support of Columbia's license renewal application. This facility serves an important role in electricity generation for my constituents and the state of Washington. I urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to approve the license renewal application.

The Columbia Generating Station, although located more than 200 miles from my legislative district, is an integral part of our state's electricity generation representing over 8 percent of our state's total generation capacity and providing electricity for more than one million homes. Columbia's generation also contributes to our regional economic competitiveness by keeping electricity rates at a reasonable level, an important component to help attract new employers.

In a state with an unemployment rate of 9.3 percent, Columbia is also a strong economic engine that employs more than 1,100 people and creating more than \$440 million in economic activity. Renewing the license application will ensure the continued presence of these highly-skilled, family-wage jobs that are vital to our state economy.

Columbia serves as a key component in our state's increasing use of intermittent renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power. With limited opportunities to expand our hydroelectric system, Columbia's generation provides much needed firming power to maintain stability on our regional electric grid as the use of intermittent renewable energy sources increases.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and again, I urge the Commission to approve Columbia's license renewal application.

Regards,

Cathy

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE: PO BOX 40600, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0600 • 360-786-7846

E-MAIL: Cathy.Dahlquist@leg.wa.gov

TOLL-FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE: 1-800-562-6000 • TDD: 1-800-635-9993

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D. Doyle (did)

Freeman (5281)

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