

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

April 16, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

I am writing in support of Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) application to the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) program. PSE is seeking \$35 million for the Skagit River Valley Transformation for Climate Resiliency project.

PSE serves 1.2 million people across 10 counties in Washington and employs 3,300 people in the state. The Skagit River Valley region is among the regions serviced by PSE. This region is a Justice 40 area of PSE's service territory which suffers from high flood risk and increasing wildfire threats due to climate change impacts.

If successful, PSE will use grant funding to implement their three-pronged approach to increase grid resilience and reliability for the Skagit River Valley. This includes undergrounding approximately 32 miles of electricity distribution infrastructure, deploying cameras, and sensing technologies for real-time monitoring. It also includes installing black-start generation and microgrid technologies to ensure resilient power delivery from the Baker River Hydroelectric Project to communities within Skagit County and help quickly restore power after major generation outages. The Skagit River Valley Transformation for Climate Resiliency project will sustain over 40 jobs in Washington, expand PSE's pre-apprenticeship program, and direct 80% of project benefits towards federally-designated Disadvantaged Communities.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of PSE's application to the GRIP program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator