



June 11, 2025

RE: Wells Dam Project - Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) Certification

To Whom it May Concern,

As an elected representative of the City of Bridgeport, Washington, I am writing in full support of the Douglas County Public Utility District's (Douglas PUD) application for continued Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) certification for the Wells Hydroelectric Project.

Our community, located along the Columbia River, directly benefits from the Wells Project, which plays an essential role not only in power generation but also in sustaining the recreational activities that are integral to our local identity and economy. Douglas PUD's commitment to maintaining stable reservoir elevations has been vital for key recreational events such as camping, boating, fishing, and family gatherings. These activities draw visitors from across the region and provide a significant economic boost to our community through tourism, lodging, dining, and retail.

In addition to supporting recreational access, Douglas PUD has been a steadfast advocate for fisheries enhancement programs. Notably, the Okanogan Basin Sockeye program, a critical component of the Fish and Water Management Tool, has played an instrumental role in bolstering the ecological health of the river and improving angling opportunities. Every July, anglers from across the Pacific Northwest flock to our area to participate in this unique fishery. Furthermore, Douglas PUD's educational initiatives, such as hatchery tours and hands-on release programs, actively engage local students and help foster a deeper connection to the environment.

Douglas PUD's stewardship also extends to maintaining public access points along the river, such as boat launches, docks, and waterfront parks, ensuring safe and high-quality recreational experiences for residents and visitors alike. Their responsible management of the Wells Project embodies the values of the LIHI certification program—balancing energy production with environmental protection, cultural respect, and public access.

For these reasons, we wholeheartedly support Douglas PUD's application for continued LIHI certification. The Wells Hydroelectric Project serves as a model of responsible hydroelectric operation, delivering lasting value to the people and communities of North Central Washington.

Sincerely,

Sergio Orozco
City Mayor