



CITY OF PATEROS
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June 5, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As Mayor of Pateros, Washington, I write in full support of Douglas County Public Utility District's (Douglas PUD) continued Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) certification for the Wells Hydroelectric Project. Our community is at the confluence of the Columbia and Methow Rivers. Recreation, hospitality, and tourism are significant economic drivers for our community and the Wells Project, Lake Pateros, is central to those activities. Pateros enjoys visitors from across the region and Canada.

The recreational facilities provided by Douglas PUD at Pateros support individual activities from kayaking and swimming to community events like festivals and boat races. The facilities are well maintained and well used and include docks, boat launches, parking areas, trails, picnic areas, restrooms, showers, campsites and playgrounds. Douglas PUD has demonstrated a commitment to providing high quality and safe access to Lake Pateros.

Douglas PUD supports fisheries and wildlife areas which are popular with hunters, anglers and bird watchers. All the recreational programs and infrastructure within the Wells Project bring visitors and benefit the community. The city is inundated with visitors during sockeye season and peak tourist season, but the Wells Project also attracts bird watchers and waterfowl hunters during the off season.

The PUD's facilities at Pateros host three large annual events, a salmon bake and Tribal community gathering in June; the City's Apple Pie Jamboree and jet ski races in July; and the Classic Hydro Races in August. Without the PUD's facilities and management of stable lake levels, these events would be extremely challenging.

Douglas PUD's stewardship of the Wells Project reflects the core values of the LIHI certification program—balancing power production with environmental protection, cultural respect, and especially recreational access and programs. Douglas PUD and the City of Pateros have been partners in planning and maintaining recreational infrastructure that supports our community, enhances our quality of life and improves our local economy.

We support Douglas PUD's certification through the Low Impact Hydropower Institute and recognize the Wells Hydroelectric Project as a model of responsible hydroelectric operation that brings lasting value to the people and communities of north central Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly Hook", is written over a white background.

Kelly Hook
Mayor