

May 11, 2023

Amanda Maxwell, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Received
Records Management
May 22, 2023

Regarding: Docket Number: UE-230287

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

The Skagit Conservation District is pleased to offer this letter of support for Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) tariff filings for Residential Single-Family Charging, Public Charging, and Workplace Charging; as well as Alternative Technology Demonstration pilots to advance transportation electrification in our region. These programs are essential to facilitating and accelerating meaningful reduction in carbon emissions resulting from Washington's transportation sector. All communities stand to benefit from PSE's programs in the form of greater access to electric mobility, cleaner air, and the conveniences of advanced technology.

The Skagit Conservation District has been in operation since 1942 providing technical assistance, education and cost share to landowners willing to take actions that protect the natural resources of Skagit County. Our primary customers have historically been the Agricultural and Forestry Communities but have grown to include both urban and rural landowners in the pursuit of clean water, restoring salmon populations and adapting as needed to address the impacts of climate change.

I want to share how much we appreciated the good work of Puget Sound Energy working with us to learn about how together we can pursue an effective program of converting from fossil fuels to climate friendly solutions. The staff were very open and did a good job of including as much detail as they could in the tariffs.

PSE's demonstration projects will identify and test technologies or services that are significantly different from existing transportation electrification programs. We are excited about the initial focus area of vehicle-to-grid integration and/or agricultural equipment electrification. In the Skagit we have a very large agricultural community, and 20% of Skagit County population is Latino with a very large portion of that population involved in the agricultural work force. We feel integrating electrification into their world will provide great benefits in the future. We also discussed the potential of using electric minibuses to move the workers from field to field as a means of becoming familiar with the ease of using electric vehicles.

PSE's Single Family Residential program will address the needs of the growing number of homeowners who are deciding between electric or traditional ICE for their next vehicle. This program stands to help limited income households, served by organizations such as ours, better understand and navigate a rapidly evolving marketplace of new and pre-owned electric vehicles and install charging infrastructure at little to no cost. The Single Family Residential program includes additional incentives to offset electrical upgrade costs for older homes and connects residents with trusted installation partners.

The EV charging solutions provided by PSE's expanded Public charging program will help meet the charging needs of EV drivers living, working, and visiting businesses in our community, while also helping our community meet its own clean energy goals. The program supports curbside charging installations, makes space for customers interested in multi-purpose charging stations (e.g. fleet, public and workplace), and supports diverse charging installation siting (in business districts, residential neighborhoods, parks and community centers).

The Workplace charging solutions offered by PSE will help us meet our clean energy goals and provide our employees with expanded charging access through installation and maintenance incentives.

These programs build on State and Federal funding and tax incentives to ensure communities like ours benefit from every opportunity to reduce upfront costs. We believe it's important to ensure equitable access to transportation electrification and its benefits. PSE's programs will not only provide robust financial incentives for historically underserved communities, but also address barriers to equitable access through enhanced educational and technical assistance.

The Skagit Conservation District supports PSE's efforts to address the urgency of establishing charging infrastructure and to further advance EV adoption. Approving PSE's Single Family, Workplace, Public and Alternative Technology Demonstrations tariffs are an important next step toward realizing a clean mobility future for all.

We support PSE's proposed filings and look forward to working with them to accelerate the adoption of transportation electrification in Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Blake', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Blake
Executive Director
Skagit Conservation District