



June 25, 2021

Mark L. Johnson
Executive Director and Secretary
P.O. Box 47250
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SE
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Regarding: Docket Number 210191

Dear Mr. Johnson:

HopeSource is pleased to offer this letter of support for Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) proposed Transportation Electrification (TE) Plan. We believe that electrifying transportation is a vital way to reduce carbon emissions in the state and help HopeSource, a social service provider, reduce our operating costs through lower fuel and maintenance expenditures for our vehicles.

The TE Plan supports our organization and community goals to grow a more sustainable, equitable, resilient, and healthy clean energy economy. Additionally, this plan supports PSE's Beyond Net Zero Carbon goals, which target reducing their own carbon emissions to net zero and go beyond by helping other sectors to enable carbon reduction across Washington state by 2045.

HopeSource was happy to participate in PSE's low-income pilot program which helped pay for a charging station and electric vehicle at our office in Ellensburg, WA. We obtained the Kia Niro EV (fondly called EVie by staff) in October 2020 and have used it nearly every day for meeting the needs of low-income clients in Kittitas County. The branded vehicle elicits many positive responses when we are in the community providing services for affordable housing, energy assistance, weatherization and more.

PSE was instrumental in helping us with the learning curve of EVs and charging stations, but it can be a challenging task, particularly in a rural area. We used the vehicle for an overnight trip to Bellingham, WA, which took some pre-planning and charging time in a store parking lot to ensure the car had enough power to complete the trip. More fast-charging stations with a standardized method of payment would increase acceptance of electric vehicles.

While HopeSource assesses our ability and plans to incorporate electric vehicles into our operations, it is vital that PSE provide its customers with a grid that is reliable, resilient, safe, and modernized to efficiently respond to the changing transportation industry. PSE's TE Plan is a roadmap for their teams to develop and implement programs and services that support electric vehicle charging and the corresponding utility infrastructure to support increased loads. Within the TE Plan, PSE also plans for furthering energy equity and inclusion, including those in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to support PSE's TE Plan and look forward to working with them to incorporate electric vehicles in our own fleet.

Sincerely,

Susan Grindle, CEO

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