



Jan. 15, 2019

Senator Brad Hawkins
107 Irv Newhouse Building
P.O. Box 40412
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Letter of Support — 2019 Capital Budget Funding Request of \$2,013,000 for the Wenatchi Landing Sewer Extension Project

Dear Brad,

I am writing to let you know the Our Valley Our Future community development initiative supports the funding request for the Wenatchi Landing Sewer Extension.

Extension of sewer service to the Wenatchi Landing area will promote multi-county economic development through a thriving job center, with tourist and recreation destinations, and will yield measurable economic and fiscal benefits for local communities and local governments, as well as Washington State.

In 2015-16, Our Valley Our Future (OVOF) engaged in extensive community outreach work throughout Chelan and Douglas counties. We had more than 3,000 people answer several open-ended questions — What do you value most about living in the region? What do you see as the region's greatest strength and greatest weakness? What future challenges do you see the region facing? What one vision idea do you have? Utilizing the answers to those questions, several citizen committees then spent 10 months developing, vetting and refining the projects that make up the OVOF Action Plan. The Action Plan was released in November 2016.

One of the projects in the OVOF Action Plan — Decide 2.1 Regional Sewer System — calls for sewer systems that improve “the ability to serve the region as a whole.” Several other Action Plan projects are tied to the Wenatchi Landing sewer extension. They include Prosper 3.1 Quality Jobs, Prosper 5.3 Outdoor Recreation Destination, Prosper 5.6 Waterfront Destination, Plan 2.1 Mixed-Use Planning, and Plan 3.1 Riverfront Redevelopment.

In addition, one of the recommendations in the recently completed OVOF Housing Report calls for additional infrastructure in the East Wenatchee area.

Having overseen the OVOF community outreach work in 2015-16, I can tell you that residents want the community to take greater advantage of existing assets. Many residents see a strong connection between improvements in outdoor recreation, amenities and employment, and their quality of life.

In closing, please accept Our Valley Our Future's strong support of the Douglas County Sewer District in their legislative request to secure funding for the Wenatchi Landing Sewer Extension. Please let me know if you have any questions or need assistance from me.

Regards,

Steve Maher
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