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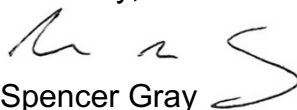
Comments of the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition to the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology in support of House Bill 1812

The Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPPC) submits these comments in support of HB 1812. NIPPC represents competitive power participants in the Pacific Northwest. NIPPC members include owners, operators, and developers of independent power generation and storage, power marketers, transmission developers, and affiliated companies. Collectively, NIPPC represents over 4,500 megawatts of operating generation and an equal amount permitted or under development. This includes much of the clean energy that now serves Washington consumers and the new projects that will be built to meet the state's clean energy objectives.

HB 1812 appropriately recognizes that the state's recently enacted clean energy laws, including the Clean Energy Transformation Act of 2019 and the Climate Commitment Act of 2021, will require major new investments in the state in electric generating, transmission, and storage projects. Reforming, modernizing, and streamlining the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) to facilitate this forthcoming increase in proposed projects in the state, as well as to improve the siting process overall for energy projects, is a welcome proposal. By expanding the list of projects eligible to opt into the EFSEC certification process, including for the transmission lines whose upgrade and new construction will be essential to transforming the electric grid, this bill fills in a missing piece in Washington's clean energy policies. Timely, reliable processes to evaluate and permit new projects is nearly as important to the clean energy transition as sector-wide or economy-wide mandates to build them.

NIPPC notes that the current version of the bill (the engrossed second substitute) appears to have a typographical error at page 12, line 31. NIPPC understands the legislative intent to be to cover transmission projects of at least 115,000 volts, not 150,000 volts as the text now says. NIPPC urges the Committee to change this language to 115,000 volts and to pass the bill.

Sincerely,



Spencer Gray
Executive Director