

**Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515**

December 1, 2006

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

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OFFICE OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION
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Dear Commission:

We are writing today in support of Snohomish County Public Utility District's (SnoPUD) applications to study the potential of tidal energy in Puget Sound. Today, the FERC has seven permits submitted by SnoPUD on hold until after the completion of the technical conference to take place in early December. The seven sites combined have the potential to provide as much as 100 average megawatts of energy –enough power for 600,000 homes.

Tidal activity in the Puget Sound provides a unique opportunity to explore a variety of wave and tidal technologies in the future. The region's geography provides an opportunity for Washington state to become a nationwide leader in the development of these technological breakthroughs. Furthermore, researching and developing this emerging renewable technology will assist the nation in finding alternative energy sources that ensure the security of our nation and will assist others in developing this renewable resource.


As you know, ocean and tidal energy technologies are pollution free. These technologies produce no particulate or gas emissions, do not generate solid waste or wastewater, create no noise pollution, have minimal impact on the seabed and are aesthetically pleasing. The opportunity to ensure that renewable resources are available to SnoPUD and other entities is one that should not be missed because of bureaucratic obstacles. It is clear that the precedent set by the FERC will have a lasting effect on the feasibility of ocean power.

We understand that the FERC permits would not authorize construction. The permits in questions would allow the utility to apply for construction permits in the future if studies prove the sites are feasible. Tidal power in Puget Sound region represents a cutting edge renewable source of energy to meet the growing demand locally that we believe warrants further review.

The timeliness of the FERC's approval of these permits is of the utmost importance. We urge you to grant the permits to SnoPUD in the near future so that they may begin the necessary testing to determine the feasibility of ocean energy technology in Washington state.

Thank you for your consideration.

SINCERELY,


Jay Inslee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Rick Larsen
MEMBER OF CONGRESS