

3 June 2026

Columbia County Board of Commissioners
Columbia County Courthouse
230 Strand Street
St. Helens, Oregon 97051

RE: Support for the NW Natural MX3 Mist Storage Expansion Project

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Matt Crockett. I am a Pipefitter, General Foreman, and Site Superintendent at JH Kelly with 12 years in the industry, all of it at JH Kelly. I have served as site superintendent on the Turbine C-40 Mechanical Project, the 2023 and 2024 Mist Framework contracts, the Miller Methanol Injection project, the NMCS Line Heater, the Reichhold Separator, the GC700 project, the ongoing GC800 project, and the 2025 Miller Framework, among others. The Mist facility is a site I know well, and Northwest Natural is a client I have worked alongside for most of my career.

I am writing to support the MX3 project and encourage the Board to approve the conditional use permit.

From where I stand, this project means jobs for craft workers in our region and real economic activity in Columbia County. A project of this size needs pipefitters, electricians, ironworkers, laborers, equipment operators, and more. Those are the kinds of jobs that support families and communities. The workers on this project will need places to sleep and places to eat. That spending shows up in the local economy in ways that are easy to overlook from the outside but are real and consistent for the businesses that serve construction crews.

I also want to say that Northwest Natural runs a well-managed, safety-conscious operation at Mist. Working out there, you can see how seriously they take the facility and the surrounding community. This is not a company that takes its presence in Columbia County for granted.

I appreciate the Board's time and respectfully ask for your support of this project.

Sincerely,



Matt Crockett
Pipefitter / General Foreman / Site Superintendent
JH Kelly
mcrockett@jhkelly.com | 360.998.0871