

3 June 2026

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

RE: NW Natural MX3 Project — Letter of Support

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

I am Sean Doebele, an Electrical General Foreman at JH Kelly. I have been with JH Kelly for all 11 years of my career in the trades, and I have spent more time working at Northwest Natural's Mist facility than anywhere else. Across that time I have served as Electrical General Foreman at Miller Generating Station and the North Mist Compressor Station, and I have also filled a safety professional role at the site. Most recently, our team completed the GC700 project and is currently executing the GC800 project at the facility. That combination of craft leadership and safety responsibility has given me a perspective on this facility that goes beyond the electrical scope I oversee.

One thing that has consistently stood out to me at Mist is the emphasis Northwest Natural places on safety and environmental stewardship. In my experience, the way a company runs its site tells you a lot about how it views the people working there and the community surrounding it. Northwest Natural takes both seriously. Their safety culture is not performative; it reflects a genuine commitment to doing right by the workers on site and by the land and community around the facility. That is the kind of operator that is good to have in Columbia County, and it is a meaningful part of why I am glad to write this letter.

The craft who will work the MX3 project will benefit from that environment. Good safety culture means workers go home healthy. It also tends to mean a well-run project, which means consistent employment and fewer disruptions over the life of the work. For the local trades, that matters.

Beyond the jobsite, the economic activity this project will bring to the county is real and tangible. The hotels, restaurants, and local businesses that have already been supporting JH Kelly's existing crews at Mist will see more business. That spending supports local owners and the people who work for them.

I hope the Board will support this permit. Northwest Natural has been a good neighbor in Columbia County for a long time, and the MX3 project is an extension of that commitment.

Respectfully,



Sean Doebele  
Electrical General Foreman

JH Kelly

[sdoebele@jhkelly.com](mailto:sdoebele@jhkelly.com) | 360.355.7087