



June 3, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support for NW Natural Conditional Use Permit Application CU 25-169

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Port of Columbia County, I am writing in support of NW Natural's Conditional Use Permit Application CU 25-169 for the development of three additional gas storage wells and related processing infrastructure at the Mist Gas Storage Facility in Columbia County.

The Port recognizes the importance of strategic energy infrastructure investments that strengthen the long-term economic vitality and resiliency of our region. NW Natural's proposed expansion at Mist represents a meaningful investment in Columbia County's energy future and will help ensure continued reliable and affordable delivery of energy throughout the region.

The Mist Gas Storage Facility plays a critical role in regional energy reliability, particularly during periods of peak demand and severe weather events. Expanding storage capacity and modernizing associated infrastructure will help support the resilience and stability of the broader energy system while positioning Columbia County as an important contributor to Oregon's long-term energy needs.

In addition to its operational benefits, the project will generate direct economic impact for Columbia County through construction activity, family-wage employment opportunities, increased utilization of local contractors and suppliers, and additional tax revenue at a time when local governments and public agencies continue to face financial pressures. We also understand that project-related staging and pipe storage activities may utilize Port facilities, providing direct economic benefit to the Port and further supporting local industrial activity.

The Port of Columbia County values projects that support infrastructure modernization, economic development, and long-term regional competitiveness while creating opportunities for local workers and businesses. We appreciate NW Natural's continued investment in Columbia County and respectfully encourage the Board to approve Conditional Use Permit Application CU 25-169.

Thank you for your consideration and service to Columbia County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean P. Clark", written in a cursive style.

Sean P. Clark

Executive Director
Port of Columbia County