

July 2, 2024

Ms. Diahann Howard, PPM®, PDX Executive Director  
Port of Benton  
3250 Port of Benton Blvd  
Richland, WA 99354  
[dhoward@portofbenton.com](mailto:dhoward@portofbenton.com)

**RE: Installation of Shore Power at the Port of Benton's Barge Complex at Columbia River Mile Post 343 in Richland, Washington**

Dear Ms. Howard,

The Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC) is pleased to support the Port of Benton's application for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Port Electrification Grant to fund the installation of shore power at the barge complex listed above. Our organization is aware that the Port Electrification Program is a grant program that is only available to public port districts created pursuant to Title 53 RCW. The intended funding supports entire projects or a part of a larger project, where state funds would enable the project to be completed. This grant program is funded by the Carbon Emissions Reduction Account established by the Washington Climate Commitment Act of 2021.

The port's project will provide shore power to their barge complex, which comprises of two berths, a high dock, and a barge slip located at River mile 343 on the Columbia River. The partnerships with the Port of Benton and other stakeholders in the industry will help facilitate industrial large break bulk shipments, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and will install shore side power for vessels that opt to use the facility. Additionally, this will help to supply shoreside power to both the high dock and the barge slip to reduce greenhouse emissions while the berths are utilized for the cruise ships.

TRIDEC knows that the Port of Benton has a vital opportunity to grow their partnerships with stakeholders in the city like ours. Eastern Washington, and specifically the Port's water access will help serve the cruise industry and grow economic development with large shipments. TRIDEC fully supports the Port of Benton's application to the WSDOT Port Electrification Grant.

Sincerely,



Karl Dye  
President & CEO  
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