

Jerome Delvin, *District 1*
Michael Alvarez, *District 2*
Will McKay, *District 3*



Jerrod MacPherson
County Administrator
Matt Rasmussen
Deputy County Administrator

2 July 2024

Diahann Howard, Executive Director
Port of Benton
3250 Port of Benton Boulevard
Richland, Washington 99354

RE: Port of Benton Port Electrification Grant

Benton County supports the Port of Benton's application for the Washington State Department of Transportation port electrification grant to fund the installation of shore power at its barge complex located at River Mile 343 of the Columbia River in Richland, Washington. The County 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.

The Port's project will provide shore power to their barge complex which comprises of 2 berths, a high dock, and a barge slip located 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 shore side power to both the high dock and the barge slip to reduce greenhouse emissions while the berths are utilized for cruise ships.

We know that the Port of Benton has an excellent opportunity to grow their partnerships with stakeholders in our community and beyond with these improvements. Benton County supports the Port of Benton's application and we look forward to seeing it through.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam J. Fyall".

Adam J. Fyall
Sustainable Development Manager