



17 August 2009

Kittitas County Commissioners
205 West 5th Room 109
Ellensburg Washington

Dear Commissioners,

This letter is in response to the recent moratorium on new wells imposed by the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) and your request for public comment.

It is the strong opinion of the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce that recent actions of the DOE are in poor judgment, detrimental to the negotiations process and an unwise use of strong arm tactics. We are in agreement with Senator Janea Holmquist and Representatives Judy Warnick and Bill Hinkle in that the citizens of our county have been poorly serviced by this (DOE) state agency, while real and meaningful negotiations were still underway.

We support the position that these issues should be resolved by good faith negotiations and the use of best available science. It is clear from the public meeting of August 13, 2009, that the DOE has no accurate data on Kittitas County water supplies in its possession. Until such data exists, we feel the DOE should act cautiously when implementing policies harmful to our economic health. Unfortunately, the testimony of DOE officials at the Cle Elum meeting revealed they have no interest in resolving the issue in an expeditious manner or to relieve the real and painful economic, mental and emotional suffering their actions have caused the affected citizens of our county.

We would urge the County Commissioners to use all legal means to resist the intimidating tactics employed by the DOE and to pursue a resolution of this issue that respects the input of local citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall L. Madsen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marshall L. Madsen CFE
Executive Director

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2009

1st 2nd 3rd

KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Handwritten notes:
- Kirk
- Cathy B
- Brent
- PH Fee