COAL PLANT
WORKING GROUP
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May 12, 2008

Hon. Doug Sutherland,
Commissioner of Public Lands
111Washington SE, PO Box 47000
Olympia WA 98504-7000

Re: Wallula Sequestration Study Proposal

Dear Commissioner Sutherland:

We are enclosing petitions against the proposed coal plant and sequestration study proposed for Wallula signed by over 800 concerned citizens and residents, along with a front-page article from Friday's Walla Walla Union-Bulletin regarding citizen opposition. More signatures are being gathered daily, and will be forwarded to you as they come in.

As we believe you know, Battelle/Pacific Northwest Laboratory has asked to move its proposed CO2 sequestration test at Wallula from Port of Walla Walla land to DNR land. The purpose of locating the test on DNR land at Wallula is to facilitate the siting of one or more coal-fueled power plants adjacent to the site and in the general vicinity. We urge you not to permit the use of DNR land for this purpose.

We should use our public and private resources to protect the environment and our own sustainability by investing in renewables. In 1991 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released a national wind resource inventory, noting that three states had enough harnessable wind energy to satisfy all of our national electricity needs. In addition, a 2005 DOE assessment of offshore wind energy concluded that U.S. offshore wind out to a distance of 50 miles alone is sufficient to meet 70 percent of national electricity needs. Other renewables, such as concentrated solar, offer the same non-polluting capacities to meet our energy needs.

We therefore join the many citizens who have signed the enclosed petitions in urging you not to allow DNR land to be used for the proposed coal-related sequestration test, and in urging you to protect our agricultural lands, water, and air for the health of both our region and our climate.

Sincerely,

cc: Bill Boyum, Southeast Region Manager