WHATCOM
PUD

October 8, 2024

Whatcom County Council

Dear Council Members and County Executive,

Today, you have on your agenda AB2024-661 discussing a draft ordinance to allow utilities to use 230 kilovolts as an operating voltage.

We fully support this change. As our County electrifies transportation, in order to reduce our carbon footprint, utilities will need to greatly increase the throughput of their electrical systems. One of the best ways to do this is to increase the voltage of the lines carrying power.

Two hundred and thirty (230) kilovolts is an industry standard voltage, and using it in Whatcom County will allow us to avoid new parallel lines that will need additional rights of way and structures as we electrify. We believe raising the voltage level will reduce the costs to serve Whatcom County and will allow more rapid and efficient electrification.

We support this change and ask that you do as well.

Sincerely,

Chris Heimgartner
General Manager – Whatcom PUD

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY
P.O. Box 2308 | 1705 Trigg Road
Ferndale, Washington 98248-9383
(360) 384-4288
www.pudwhatcom.org

Commissioners: Jaime Arnett, Atul Deshmane, Christine Grant • Chris Heimgartner, General Manager