

University of Washington
Testimony to the Port of Chelan County Commissioners
February 2, 2005

My name is Marilyn Cox and I am the Director of Capital Planning for the University of Washington, and lead staff to the DUSEL-Cascades Office. It is my pleasure to speak this afternoon on behalf of the University of Washington.

First, I would like to thank the Port of Chelan County Commissioners and staff for the outstanding job that they have done in facilitating the public discussion of the proposed DUSEL-Cascades project. I would also like to thank the State of Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development for their financial support of this public process.

The University of Washington fully supports the Port's proposed resolution, and is already engaged in efforts specifically responsive to the recommendations outlined in Exhibit "A" of the resolution. The university shares the community's commitment to fully exploring the potential impacts of the project, and to refining the project proposal to avoid or reduce potential impacts to the extent feasible and practical. As we move forward into more detailed planning we are committed to working with the community to develop mitigation measures and long term monitoring and reporting agreements to ensure that the underground lab is built and operated in a clean, safe, and open manner.

We are already following through on a number of the recommendations included in the Citizen's Advisory Committee Report of last December. Our Vice Provost for Educational Partnerships has held an initial meeting with members of the education subcommittee to brainstorm ideas for educational partnering opportunities. We believe that some of these opportunities can be developed in the community through existing UW programs, and additional opportunities can be developed in the future to take advantage of the facilities and science that will be available in the community in association with the proposed national lab.

The University of Washington has also worked with Mark Urdahl from the Port and two Port-appointed citizens, Pamela Amoss and Paul Hessburg, to select a consulting firm to begin to prepare the economic profile information that has been discussed by the Citizens Advisory Committee. This work will proceed over the next several months, and will include opportunities for the community to review and comment on the scope and content of the materials being developed to explore the economic effects of the project.

Our goal is to allow the project to proceed through the next phases of design development, environmental assessment and public involvement so that the National Science Foundation can select the best possible site for this critically important national laboratory. In the months ahead, the university will work with the community and

regulatory agencies to thoroughly and publicly analyze the areas of concern that have been raised through the project's initial review, including but not limited to rock hauling, water supply and water quality, economic forecasts, and "sense of place".

The University of Washington recognizes the significance of the community's concern regarding "sense of place" and is committed to working with the community and regulatory agencies to locate, design and develop the science campus and the visitor center so as to minimize or eliminate aspects of the project that might adversely affect "sense of place".

Last week, the University of Washington published architectural concepts of the lab's surface facilities including the portal at Mt. Cashmere, the science campus, and the visitor center. We have displayed these conceptual drawings in a number of locations for public viewing and have posted the drawings on our website. I would like to emphasize that these are intended only as illustrations of potential design options and that we want to work with the community to develop and refine these concepts.

We also recognize the critical role that the visitor center will play in the long term connection to the community and the existing strong tourist base in the local economy and we are committed to working with local citizens to locate, design, and develop these key facilities in a manner that brings benefit to the community and the science programs. The visitor center provides opportunities to benefit not just visitors to the area, but also K-12 education through science programs, displays, speaker series, and other means, perhaps in a role similar to the Burke Museum or the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley.

The science campus concept incorporates many sustainable design elements, including natural ventilation, solar panels, native vegetation and a water re-use system. These sustainable design elements are in response to suggestions that we have received from Leavenworth-area residents that the science campus could be a model for sustainability. The portal's design concept shows how an underground portal room can be constructed so that loading operations are entirely inside the mountain. Again, this concept incorporates suggestions from Icicle Valley residents that the footprint in Wenatchee National Forest be minimized.

On or about February 28th we intend to submit a conceptual proposal to the National Science Foundation. If the Foundation decides, on the basis of this proposal, that the Cascades site should be further explored, then we will be given another year to complete preliminary site analysis and to prepare a more complete proposal for the next round of competition. We want to work in partnership with the Port and the citizens of this community throughout this period.

The University of Washington was created by the citizens of this State out of the belief that education and new knowledge will help our children lead better lives. The University of Washington's leadership believes that DUSEL-Cascades will, over the next several decades, make important contributions to basic science and to society. These

include discoveries that will enrich us intellectually, such as identifying the invisible matter that has shaped the form of our universe. It also includes advances that will contribute to our health and to the preservation of our environment: a better understanding of the changes that are influencing our climate and water supply; new materials that will help keep our nation's computer and communications industries competitive; and the identification of geomicrobes important to better pharmaceuticals and better tools for environmental remediation.

DUSEL-Cascades will bring some of the University of Washington's best teachers and researchers to Chelan County. It will also bring experts on K-12 education and public outreach. We think these individuals, in partnership with the faculty of Wenatchee Valley College and other area institutions and with the teachers working in our public schools, will provide the foundation for improving educational opportunities for the area's citizen.

We believe these are important goals for this community, this state, and our nation. We thank the Port for its trust in the University.

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