



Wahkiakum County Public Works Department

Peter A. (Pete) Ringen, P.E.
Public Works Director/ County Engineer

July 9, 2015

Peter Moulton
Washington Department of Commerce
PO Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Proposed Chapter 194-29 WAC- Practicable Use of Electricity and Biofuels to Fuel Local Government Vehicles, Vessels, and Construction Equipment

Dear Mr. Moulton:

While it is understood the intent of this Chapter is to implement goals set forth in R.C.W. 43.19.648, pertaining to alternative fuels for vehicles, vessels and equipment for all local governments, I wish to let you know that the financial burden these goals place on Wahkiakum County are far too onerous, and in my opinion, simply cannot be met. Wahkiakum County, as one of the smallest Counties in the State of Washington, has inadequate financial resources, and struggles to perform the basic services of County government.

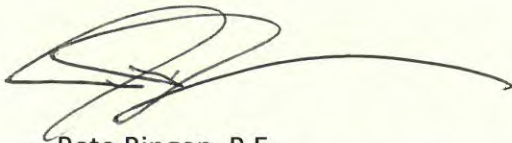
Although your proposed rules have a reporting threshold of 200,000 gallons, and Wahkiakum County Public Works annual fuel consumption is far below this threshold, it appears the compliance threshold of WAC 194-29-050 would still involve Wahkiakum County. Therefore this proposed code as written will entail an additional workload toward a goal which cannot be practicably met by this County, and would be wasteful of human resources. These human resources are better used serving the local community rather than serving the goal of this legislation, which provides no financial path for implementation.

My recommendation to you is that you re-define or clarify the expectation for small rural Counties, and exempt those Counties under the 200,000 gallon threshold from any unproductive coordination or meeting requirements. Wahkiakum County is simply too small and financially incapable to take on these lofty goals of alternative fuels such as bio-diesel, electric vehicles, natural gas, and high ethanol blend gasoline without full funding for the implementation of these goals with new vehicles and fueling sources from State or federal funding sources.

Peter Moulton - page 2
July 9, 2015

Thank you for carefully considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Ringen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pete Ringen, P.E.
Director/County Engineer

Cc: Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners
Honorable Brian Hatfield, Washington State Senator
Honorable Dean Takko, Washington State Representative
Honorable Brian Blake, Washington State Representative
Honorable Dale Jacobson, Mayor, Town of Cathlamet
Cathlamet Fire Department
Dave Trambly, Manager, Wahkiakum PUD
Chuck Beyer, Wahkiakum Building and Planning