## **UNIVERSITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE**

Interim Director GAIL HAMMER

Office Manager JULIE CLAAR

Paralegals DANIELLE PALM VICKI L. YOUNT

Receptionist DEBBIE ORTEGA 721 North Cincinnati Street
P.O. Box 3528
Spokane, Washington 99220-3528
Phone (509) 313-5791
Facsimile (509) 313-5805
TTY (509) 313-3796

Supervising Attorneys RICHARD K. EICHSTAEDT STEPHEN F. FAUST JENNIFER A. GELLNER GAIL HAMMER GENEVIEVE MANN BARRY PFUNDT

GEORGE A. CRITCHLOW LARRY A. WEISER MARK E. WILSON Of Counsel

April 23, 2018

Mr. Daniel I. Peterson President Public Utility District of Pend Oreille County No. 1 130 North Washington Avenue Newport, Washington 99156

RE: Illegal Land Sale to HiTest

Dear Mr. Peterson:

This letter is sent on behalf of our clients, Citizens Against the Newport Silicon Smelter ("CANSS") and Responsible Growth \*Northeast Washington ("RG\*NEW), regarding the purchase and sale of land by the Pend Oreille Public Utility District ("PUD").

The PUD finalized the purchase of Parcel #19182 from Pend Oreille County on August 2, 2017. The PUD then authorized the sale of Parcel #19182 and subsequently sold it to HiTest Sand, Inc., a Canadian Corporation, a few days later, along with three other parcels of land then owned by the PUD.

The purchase and sale of real property by a PUD is governed by the Revised Code of Washington. These statutes are clear and unambiguous. A PUD may purchase land only for the purposes which fall within the scope of a PUD, i.e. "generating and delivering electric energy."

Contrary to clear statutory mandate, the PUD purchased Parcel #19182 solely for the purpose of selling that parcel of land to HiTest Sand, Inc. This land purchase does not fall within the statutory scope of land purchases for PUDs. The PUD did not have legal authority under the Revised Code of Washington to purchase land solely for the purpose of selling it to a private corporation.

A PUD may sell property if (1) it is declared surplus by the PUD and then disposed of in a manner which satisfies procedural requirements of the Revised Code of Washington, or if (2) the PUD receives authorization (through a vote) of three fifths of the constituents within that District to sell the proposed land.

The sale of Parcel #19182 by the PUD to HiTest Sand, Inc. also failed to follow the appropriate statutory mandates. Parcel #19182 was never declared surplus, nor were the constituents of the PUD allowed to vote on the disposal of Parcel #19182. Denying our clients and the citizens of the PUD their right to vote is a serious violation of their fundamental rights. The PUD acted outside its statutory authority when it failed to adhere to the statutory mandate set forth in the Revised Code of Washington.

Mr. Daniel I. Peterson April 24, 2018 Page Two

The purchase of Parcel 19182 by the PUD from Pend Oreille County was illegal. The sale of Parcel #19182 from the PUD to HiTest Sand, Inc. was illegal. The PUD, in one transaction, sold Parcel #19182 to HiTest coupled with three other parcels, thus the entire four parcel sale from PUD to HiTest was illegal. We, as the representatives of these two citizen groups demand the PUD take immediate curative action to void these land transactions. If, within thirty days, the PUD has not taken curative actions to return the title to Parcel #19182 back to Pend Oreille County, and to regain its title to the other three parcels, we will begin legal proceedings against you. We are hopeful that this issue can be resolved in a non-confrontational manner as that would be best for all parties involved. With that being said, we are not going to allow these transgressions by the PUD to stand.

Norman Semanko

Counsel for CANSS

Parsons Behle & Latimer

Do not hesitate to contact us with regards to this letter.

Regards,

Rick Eichstaedt

Counsel for RG\*NEW

University Legal Assistance

may aum

Walter Tanner

Law Clerk

University Legal Assistance

Maxwell Bridge

Licensed Legal Intern, WSBA #9777442

University Legal Assistance

cc: Dolly Hunt, Pend Oreille County Prosecutor

Rod Brown, Cascadia Law