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Larrie Easterly
University Engineering Manager
130 Oak Creek Building
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

To whom it may concern:

The OSU Energy Center combines two significant design features to make it a unique and innovative project both in the Pacific Northwest and nationwide. As the Oregon University System's only operational or support facility to receive a LEED Platinum rating, and the only cogeneration facility of its kind in Oregon and Washington, the Energy Center has combined process efficiency with exceptional building design.

Cogeneration technology is uncommon in higher education institutions, and is particularly rare in the Northwest. In part, this is due to lower-than-average electricity rates that make the economics of cogeneration less attractive than in other parts of the United States. In spite of the current energy cost structure, OSU leadership has looked to the future by constructing a facility that operates efficiently regardless of energy cost volatility, and that helps insulate OSU from rate increases in electricity, allowing for flexible operation that can respond to dynamic energy costs.

The Energy Center has been outfitted in two additional ways to enhance learning and environmental stewardship. The building is equipped with a classroom to enable the College of Engineering and other OSU academic units, as needed, to access the building and its staff to learn about the efficient energy conversion technologies, study energy flows and systems maintenance and operation. Second, the plant's equipment is configured to use renewable fuels, including methane/biogas and biodiesel, so at any point in the future OSU can seamlessly transition to low- or no-net carbon emitting fuels. Further, this allows OSU to have greater control its carbon emissions from electricity and meet its carbon neutrality goal of net neutrality by 2025. As markets shift and potential carbon markets emerge, OSU will be able to respond to those demands and strategic priorities.

I would be happy to further discuss this project and its innovative aspects as needed. Please contact me if more information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larrie Easterly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larrie Easterly
University Engineering Manager