

Press Release

Contact: Matt Matayoshi
Phone: (360)426-2276

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 12, 2010

EDC ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR COGENERATION FACILITY ADJACENT THE SIMPSON SAWMILL

Shelton, Washington: The Economic Development Council of Mason County announces its support for the proposal to construct an \$85 million biomass cogeneration facility on the Shelton waterfront adjacent to the Simpson sawmill.

“The cogeneration project will support \$15 million in construction wages. When completed in 2013, the project will generate green renewable power to meet our state’s energy demands,” said Matt Matayoshi, Executive Director. ” “The project can also provide steam to nearby wood products operations at the Simpson sawmill and Olympic Panel Products facilities, and overall it helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil and offshore drilling,” added Matayoshi.

These types of projects are not new to Washington State. Comparable biomass generation projects that have been developed throughout the Northwest, including in Grays Harbor, Snohomish and Pierce counties. All of these projects have been operational for a number of years. The Shelton waterfront is currently home to a biomass boiler, and had a biomass cogeneration operation in its recent past.

Our state legislature added biomass as a “Green” industry during the last session by adopting House Bill 2420, which Gov. Gregoire signed into law. This action supports Statewide Initiative 937, known as the “Renewable Energy Initiative”. This initiative states that biomass is a renewable and a green source of energy production, which puts biomass in the same category as wind or solar. In a region with a history of using wood for biofuels since before statehood, it is a great economic and environmental benefit to our community and state to see the continued development in renewable biomass technology.

###