

Cowlitz Wahkiakum Central Labor Council

Thank you. I appreciate your time, and the department of ecology's work on this SSEIS. My name is Tara McElligott, and I'm a 32 year member of Cowlitz County. I'm also the president of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council and rank and file member of the International Political Worker's Union. I have a unique perspective for the fact that I am a chemical worker. I do work in a climate chemical facility, which is actually just a couple doors down from the proposed methanol plant.

For right now, I'm going to be speaking on behalf of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council, and on a resolution that we passed for this project. The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council understands there's a significant value in growing local opportunities for careers that are capable of supporting a family for both the members represented by affiliated building trades unions and the community as a whole. The loss of industrial and manufacturing businesses along with substantial decreases in pulp and paper industry has left Cowlitz County and the surrounding areas with lack of living wage jobs.

Those losses and decreases have resulted in considerable reduction in the available tax revenue required to support schools, parks, law enforcement and other essential services. Basically, what I'm saying is we were in supportive of this project, this not only directly affects us as chemical workers, but also my entire family. My family are all Building Trades, IBEW members, and my current partner is starting the apprenticeship with IBEW. We want this work, we want these jobs. Thank you for taking your time for this hearing, thank you.