

Scott Strickland

My name is Scott Strickland, and I'm a Special Project Counsel for the International Union of Operating Engineers. I have many friends and family members who live and work in Washington. I feel that climate change is the number one threat to our economy and our way of life, our civilization, everything this planet. I feel that as such, I am extremely supportive of any attempt to shift our economy and the world economy to a more sustainable and reliable way to be able to provide for everyone equitably.

I see this project as an example of that. A shift in international finance and productivity to be able to provide family wage jobs for folks, to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of economic benefit and increase taxes, to provide for more regulation, for more technological advances to further drive us towards a better economy for everyone; including all of the ecosystem entirely. I urge the committee to approve this, and would like to see all of the folks that are speaking out against this and every other project; if there is a better alternative point to it.

I've heard about electric cars, I've heard about electricity and other things, but I haven't heard any of the criticisms that are typically lobbied against those because of the cobalt mines and other issues in South Africa and everywhere else. There is an environmental cost to everything we do. It is our responsibility to find a way forward to lessen that to better it for everyone. I thank you and yield the rest of my time.