

Longview/Kelso Building Trades Construction Council

>> Good evening. For the record, my name is Mike Bridges. I'm the current President of Longview/Kelso Building Trades Construction Council, and a lifelong resident of Cowlitz County. For over six years, you have heard me and many other local leaders and residents promote the many benefits of this project, and applaud the environmental protections and extra mitigation that Northwest Innovation has agreed to do.

I want to go on record that the Building Trades is in support of making mitigation a requirement in the final permitting documents to further secure the positive environmental impacts that it will create. We trust that Ecology will provide the same level of quality oversight for mitigation that they have throughout this year in the permitting process.

Over the years, I've seen a lot of parallels between the work we do as union leaders and the work being done by some of the environmental

groups. You've heard me speak during these hearings while I might not agree with all of the tactics and antics I've seen from the opposition. I know it is a noble cause to fight for the future of our planet and the future of our children, but I think the time for fighting is over. The department of ecology has included everything in this study that those opposed here today have asked for. The project still proves out to be a net benefit for the global environment.

While some of the numbers and variables have changed, we cannot argue the results of the math and the science that have been done to get to where we are now. We have a SCIS that clearly illustrates a huge reduction in global greenhouse gases. I sincerely hope our friends on the opposition side will see the environmental wind that is right here in front of them, the wind that they helped to create. To my friends that still oppose this project, I would urge you to reconsider. There is no one silver bullet that will fix global warming. We must look at things that we can do right now.

To those who still oppose the project based on politics, well, ignoring six years of study and science, I would say your position is disingenuous, to say the least. In closing, I would like to thank the department of ecology for this process and their due diligence to bring this project to the point we are now. We have the ability to make real positive changes while setting a standard for the rest.

>> Michael, thank you so much for your comments. Anything additionally you need to let us know, I ask you to submit in writing