

Bill Josh

Thank you so much for allowing me to speak today. I do support this project. There's a lot of people within our community here in Cowlitz, and within Southwest Washington that do support this project here in Kalama. We've been having this discussion regarding whether or not we should build this for years- for as long as I can remember- and we need to get this done.

The project has taken far too long to get approved. The goalposts have continued to move, not just for this project, but other projects within Southwest Washington. It would be a great economic boon for our community, for our county. It would provide needed tax dollars for us to help provide for crucial services within our community and within the county. It would be a great opportunity for local unions and workers within Cowlitz County, and would provide opportunities for families that will help our economy and help improve the quality of life here in Cowlitz County and Southwest Washington.

Far too often, we are faced with a government and a state bureaucracy that just continues to say no to everything. We have the highest standards of any state, and potentially in the world, to develop and build the project like the Northwest Innovation Works project. If Washington State says no to this, you are essentially going to shut down any and every opportunity for Southwest Washington to create and provide jobs in an industrial manner in the future. If you say no and if they say no, then what else can we do? What else can we build? What project will be good enough? Thank you.