



Longview/Kelso Building Trades Council

Mike Bridges, President

Adam Davis, Recording Secretary

February 10, 2021

Sage Park
Washington Department of Ecology
1250 West Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903-0009
Attn: Goldendale Scoping

Dear Ms. Park:

Sustainable job development is a vital component to keeping rural Washingtonian communities healthy and vibrant. The Goldendale Energy Storage Project would be a catalyst in providing family-wage jobs to many of these communities while also helping our state and federal policymakers achieve our goals to reduce carbon emissions.

The Goldendale Project would propel the state closer to its goal of a 100% clean energy supply by 2045 and bring the neighboring states of California and Oregon closer to their own renewable energy mandates. Additionally, the Project would act as a safety net for grid operators during our region's transition from non-renewable to renewable energy. Only with a massive amount of energy storage capacity will we be able to meet the increasing demand of electricity during this transition.

It should also be noted that hydropower and energy storage facilities like the Goldendale Energy Storage Project would not only accelerate – but are critical to – President Biden's 2050 goal of a national net-zero emissions standard.

Apart from its environmental benefits, the Goldendale Project would be an economic stimulant for communities in rural Washington. An estimated 3,000 jobs will be created during its 4-year construction with another 50-70 jobs that will remain after its completion.

To that end, the project fits hand and glove with the economic development strategy laid forth by the Mid-Columbia Economic Develop District, which seeks to advance the renewable energy sector through the creation and sustainability of high-quality jobs in rural Washington and Oregon.

Due to the aforementioned benefits of the Goldendale Energy Storage Project, the Longview/Kelso Building and Construction Trades Council offers its full support to its construction and operation.

Sincerely,

Mike Bridges
President
Longview/Kelso Building and Construction Trades Council