

## Longview Council Building and Construction Trades Council; IBW Local 48

Good evening. For the record, my name is Mike Bridges, and I live in Longview, Washington. As current president of Longview Council Building and Construction Trades Council and business representative for IBW Local 48 representing thousands of members in Southwest Washington and Oregon, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to comment in support of thorough work done by the Department of Ecology on the draft EIS on this important and monumental project. We are excited to share that both the project owner and developer have signed a memorandum of agreement with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council to construct the project under a PLA, guaranteeing over 3,000 family-wage jobs would go to the region's tradespeople. In May of 2018, myself and a large, broad group of stakeholders were able to visit to the location of proposed facility, which painted a clear picture, and helped me understand the reason why this site was chosen. This projects represents the culmination of decades of work at both the local and state level to encourage a renewable energy future for Washington. The project also helps avoid an overbuild of wind and solar, which could cause additional land use issues in the region, while preserving the affordability and reliability that rate payers in the Pacific Northwest currently enjoy. Washington and Oregon like -- Washington and Oregon have, and likely will continue implementing bold clean energy policies, and utilities and regulators are working on how to comply with these mandates. Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act passed in 2019 requires that all of state's utilities supply non-global greenhouse gas emitting electricity by 2045. CETA will make it necessary to build new infrastructure to supply this clean energy, which leads to work for all the construction trades. We feel the Goldendale Pump Storage Project is a prime example of the right project happening at the right time and the right location to help address climate change. We are excited to be part of this projects as it moves through the process, and thankful for the ability to comment on why we are in full support of the comprehensive review done thus far on the EIS. Thank you.