

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48

Hello, and thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. My name is Garth Bachman. I'm the business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48, based in Portland, Oregon. We have a diverse membership of nearly -- actually, over 5,600 members, of which over a thousand reside in Southwest Washington. Of geographical jurisdiction consists of ten counties in Oregon and five counties in Washington, including Klickitat County. We are very excited about this proposed project, as it will provide 3,000 construction jobs, as Willy Myers pointed out just a few moments ago. The project owner and developer have already signed a memorandum of understanding with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council that guarantees the construction jobs for this project will be family-wage jobs. This is crucial to the standard of living for the region's workforce. The project is scheduled to be five years in duration, which will be very helpful in the long term for building highly-skilled workforce for the future. There will be thousands of hours of apprentice training on this site, which will benefit our region for many years to come. This project will help train tomorrow's skilled trades people, which will not just benefit our tax base, but will provide more opportunities for members of our communities that may not have had the chance to learn a skilled trade. All this and more can be accomplished while at the same time, building an environmentally friendly project, as well a renewable energy future for the State of Washington. Thank you.