

Mike Bridges

Hello, my name is Mike Bridges, and I am the current President of the Longview/Kelso Building and Construction Trades Council, and Business Representative for IBEW Local 48 representing thousands of trade workers in SWWA. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to comment in support of the thorough work done by the Department of Ecology on the Draft EIS for this important and monumental project.

We are excited to share that both the project owner and the developer have signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades to construct the project under a Project Labor Agreement – guaranteeing the over 3,000 family wage jobs will go to the region's tradespeople.

In May of 2018, myself and large and broad group of stakeholders were able to visit the location of the proposed facility, which painted a clear picture and helped me understand the reason why this site was chosen. This project represents the culmination of decades of work both at 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 would cause additional land use issues in the region, while preserving the affordability and reliability that ratepayers in the Pacific Northwest currently enjoy.

Washington and Oregon, have, and likely will continue implementing stringent 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 the state's utilities supply non-global greenhouse emitting electricity by 2045. CETA will make it necessary to build new infrastructure to supply this clean energy, which leads to work for all in 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 project 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 on the EIS thus far.



Longview/Kelso Building Trades Council

Mike Bridges, President

Adam Davis, Recording Secretary

To: Department of Ecology
RE: Goldendale Energy Storage Project Draft EIS
Attention: Meg Bommarito

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Sincerely,



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