

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 48

Good evening, everyone. My name is Marshall McGrady. I represent IBEW Local 48 with members in Portland, Oregon, and Southwest Washington. I currently serve as their political director there, but I also hold a signing supervisor's electrical license in the State of Oregon, and a general journeyman's license here in the State of Washington. First, I want to comment on your EIS report that you presented tonight. In my years of field experience working as a superintendant, there was really little in that report that I did not feel could be overcome very easily by construction people in the field. We know how to mitigate environmental hazards, and we are well prepared to do so. The one item of concern on there, and I think it is something we do need to be sensitive to, is the tribal concerns. But I believe that a project of this magnitude has the ability to include an economic boom to the tribes. So I believe that there can be a solution found on that. I do want to state briefly about probably the most important element to this whole process, and it's climate change, and climate change is a reality that we all face here today. I have lived in the same home for 19 years. In that 19-year time, I never once in my life needed a generator -- an electrician that doesn't need a generator. Sounds pretty crazy -- until the winter of 2021. We had an ice storm that knocked our power out for over two weeks at my home. If we don't change how we are generating energy, how we are distributing energy, and how we are responding to climate change, the reality is, we're all going to need a bunch of generators, but we're not going to have the fuel for them. So I urge everyone here tonight to support this project. I believe it's going to be good for the community and good for both the State of Oregon and Washington. Thank you so much.