

Jonathon Lewis

I'd like to thank the Department of Ecology for hearing comments from our community. I'm here representing three interests. The first be myself, as a resident of Goldendale. My bedroom window looks out at Juniper Point, so I see the site, and I'm very excited about the vibrancy that this project could bring with jobs and other potential. I also am the Director of Support Services for Klickitat Valley Health, the local hospital. And the hospital was built in 1947, and we have a lot of capital needs, so the tax base interest of this project is very great, so the hospital and the board of the hospital is - - is in full support of this project. I'm also on the board of the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District. MCEDD represents five counties in the Gorge area region. The Executive Director is on vacation this week, so she asked me to represent MCEDD here. MCEDD develops a comprehensive economic development strategy every five years, and this project has been at the top of that list for the last two cycles. MCEDD sees it as extremely important in the economic vitality of the whole Gorge region and supports it for all the reasons that everybody has said tonight. So thank you for listening to us tonight.