

# Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council

Thank you. My name is Willy Myers -- William Myers. I'm the Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council, representing around 25,000 men and women in the construction industry. We appreciate the Department of Ecology's providing a thorough review of the Goldendale project. We are encouraged by the draft EIS. The Goldendale Energy Storage Project is a cornerstone of both Washington and the broader Pacific Northwest clean energy economy. It will provide quality jobs and rural economic development, while helping Washington and the region meet its clean energy goals with minimal environmental impacts. The draft EIS left out a social economic analysis of the project, which is disappointing. The fact that it will create more than 3,000 family-wage jobs for building trades members, with -- that will be generated over a five-year construction timeline is significant. We are encouraged and excited that the project owner and developer have agreed and signed an MOU with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades, which commits the construction of the under project a labor agreement, guaranteeing that over 3,000 family-wage jobs for the region's tradespeople. The project labor agreement also guarantees that every employee will have healthcare benefits, especially in light of what our recent experience is -- that's also very important to this region -- and pensions to retire with dignity. They'll also be contributing to training the workforce to meet our construction needs of the future. Let's work together to build this important energy project. Thank you.