

Certified Electrical Workers of Washington

So my name is Matthew Hepner. I'm the Executive Director of the Certified Electrical Workers of Washington, representing over 10,000 workers statewide, and I'm a journeyman wireman, myself. With the passage of major state climate legislation, like the Clean Energy Transformation Act, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, and the Climate Commitment Act, we have to build new forms of generation and energy storage if we're going to meet those goals. This project is a critical development project for the western grid. Storage projects like this make wind and solar viable at an industrial scale. We can't build industrial solar and wind without storage, so this is the bottleneck that we really need to have for the green energy technology take off. If we're serious about energy independence, we have to build. If we're serious about addressing climate change, we have to build. If we're serious about apprenticeships and economic development, we have to build. This project hits the bull's-eye in so many categories; jobs, apprenticeship, clean energy, increasing local tax revenues for schools, hospitals, police and fire departments, and roads. We urge Ecology diligent and continued support of this critical energy project permitting process.