

Hello my name is Chris Blair I'm a Union Rep for the Operating Engineers Local 701.

- I would like to thank the Department of Ecology for providing a thorough review of the Goldendale project.
- There are a couple of things I would like to point out, 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
- We need a project like this to help offset what my colleague Nate Stokes calls the funnel effect. "Imagine pouring water into a funnel—the water backs up as it pours through the narrow opening because the funnel can't handle all the water at once. In this analogy, the water in the funnel is generated power, the water pouring out of the funnel is transmission of power."
- The project will provide 12 hours of on-demand renewable electricity to 500,000 homes in the Pacific Northwest. **We will not be able to add more renewable energy resources to the grid and eliminate the use of fossil fuels without massive amounts of energy storage—which the Goldendale Project will provide in a low-impact way.** While lithium-ion batteries are expected to be one solution for our future storage needs, they cannot meet all our demands, and other types of energy storage—like the Goldendale Project—need to be part of the solution too.
- We need to have a place to **store the power.**
- This project will also generate \$14 million+ in tax dollars annually for the local economy.
- Just remember that **We must all work together to bring this project to the Pacific Northwest.**