

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 598

For the record, my name is Andrew Fouts. I'm a journeyman steam fitter and the current government affairs direct for Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 598 out of Pasco, Washington. I'm testifying in support of the Goldendale Energy Storage Project. With carbon goals for Washington looming a pivot away from fossil fuels to renewable, non-emitting forms of energy, production will be necessary to meet the goals that we've set for this state. While there's no easy way forward, there are already pieces in place that can help us put the United States and this state on a path to carbon-free energy future, greatly increasing our energy independence, and creating robust redundancy in our grid, by leveraging the nation's greatest asset, its skilled workforce. The same men and women that built our national labs, Naval fleet, interstate highway system, dams, power plants, our fire and police stations, hospitals, schools, stadiums, and embassies. This state can position itself as a leader to the world on clean energy production, storage, and climate stewardship. In utilizing exist infrastructure and deploying energy technology, like gravity pump storage, we can create an energy environment that perfectly compliments as much use of wind and solar as practical, but also provides dispatch capacity and storage solutions for our grid, all the while developing the next generation of workers. This five-year project will see an apprentice through their entire training program, creating a local work force of highly-skilled craftspeople and good family-wage careers. On top of the estimated 14 million in additional tax revenue, the boost to local business and ancillary development that will come, will help drive the positive economic outlook for this community and county for years to come. I hope you guys will consider my testimony in advancing this project, and thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.