

## City of Goldendale

Hi, my name is Larry Bellamy. I'm the City Administrator for the City of Goldendale, which is the closest incorporated community to the site of this proposed project. Thank you to the Department of Ecology for completing such a thorough analysis for the project. It's a value document that will help decision makers make important choices about this significant project for both our community and our state as we work to meet the goals of the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act. With the passage of that act, the Goldendale Energy Storage Project demonstrates how partnerships between rural and urban communities can help ensure the state meets its policy goals. Numerous studies have concluded that the site is ideal for pump storage, and we are fortunate to have this site in our community and have a committed developer willing to responsibly bring a pump storage to fruition. As others have stated, the Goldendale Energy Project is not only a good way to reuse the site, it's an ideal -- an ideal way to reuse the site, taking advantage of the geology and the geography needed to pump -- for pump storage, and to take advantage of the grid access and the proximity to wind and solar projects to make it cost effective. The design of the project takes into account several considerations, including aesthetics, air quality, greenhouse gasses, and aquatic species. As the draft EIS has concluded, this project can provide a valuable service in an environmentally sensitive -- or environmentally responsible way. In addition to the environmental benefits, it will bring to the community profound economic benefits. We understand that it will create approximately 3,000 high quality family-wage jobs during construction, including apprenticeships and building trades for the long term that can only be provided in long-term construction projects. We know from previous large construction projects that the city and our locals business both here and in the surrounding communities can accommodate these workers and their families. Not only will there be short-term construction benefits, but the community of Goldendale will have many long-term benefits, from permanent full-time jobs and a estimated 14 million in indirect annual property taxes. It will make a huge difference in our community's working families by supporting schools, emergency services, hospitals, parks, and roads. We are also encouraged by the developer's commitment to invest \$10 million in the clean up of the site of the former Columbia Gorge aluminum smelter, which is good for the health of people here, and downstream on this long -- long-time industrial site. The City continues to very supportive of this project as we go through these processes. Thank you very much.