

## Mark Riker

On behalf of the approximately 80,000 members of the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, I submit these comments in strong support of moving forward with this project. The transition to cleaner energy sources will require many different sources of power to the grid, this technology will be a component of the energy grid of tomorrow and will be non carbon emitting. We also have the responsibility to make sure that while we make this transition we do not leave the workers and communities most impacted behind in the process. Projects such as this can be the cornerstone for rural community economies. The magnitude of this project can support quality family wage, middle class careers in the construction trades. With the duration of this project an entry level worker from the local region can serve an entire apprenticeship, gathering transferable career sustaining skills that have been the cornerstone of the construction economy for generations, all while improving the future of energy in our region. This project is of the estimated size to support approximately 450 apprenticeship level opportunities as part of the approximate 3,000 worker labor force to construct, something that is severely lacking in our rural communities. The developer has committed to mitigating any items necessary for interested parties, along with ensuring that this particular project does in fact benefit the regional labor force both during construction and during ongoing maintenance and operation functions. For Washington State to meet our GHG emissions reduction targets we need to develop capacity very soon, this project is a component of that effort, and we need to build it now, here, and with our workers.

Thank You,  
Mark