



11/19/25

Re: Cascade Renewable Transmission Project - White Salmon Public Meeting

Good evening, EFSEC and Community Members of White Salmon,

I am writing on behalf of the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council to support the Cascade Renewable Transmission Project. Our council represents over 16,000 Building Trades Union Members in the Portland Metropolitan and SW Washington Region Including Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat Counties in the State of Washington; and as far east as Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties in the State of Oregon.

Over the past several years there has been a concerted effort to increase electrification on both sides of the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon. We believe this project is vital to the region not only in much needed electrical capacity to support an aging electrical grid, but to also increase supply as our region grows through new economic development and residential demand. This project will bring countless family wage jobs indirectly through this increased capacity, encouraging new technologies to move to the area or existing ones to expand. Growth like this needs to be and can be achieved in an economically and environmentally responsible and safe manner. This underwater transmission line will convert AC power into DC, and then back to AC power once it reaches either end of the line. This removes EMF issues affecting wildlife and the ecosystem. The process of burying the line is also minimally impactful to the riverbed as it is buried in silt and recovers quickly. This process limits environmental impacts and is a relatively fast process, especially compared to traditional overhead transmission lines. Lastly, over the past several years of catastrophic wildfire events, this system will greatly reduce this risk simply because of the length of the line being submerged.

In closing, after this project is completed, and the system is up and running, most of it will be invisible to nature, the communities it passes through, and most of the end users. The positive environmental and economic impact of this project on our region will be vast and undeniable for current and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall Friesen", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Randall Friesen
Executive Director
Columbia Pacific Building & Construction Trades Council

The Columbia Pacific Building & Construction Council Proudly Represents:

- *International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers*
- *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*
- *International Union of Elevator Constructors*
- *International Union of Painters and Allied Trades*
 - *Drywall Finishers, Glaziers, Floor Coverers, Painters Local*
- *Laborers' International Union of North America*
- *Office & Professional Employees International Union*
- *Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association*
- *International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers*
- *United Association - Union of Plumbers, Fitters, Welders and Service Techs*
- *United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers*
- *International Union of Operating Engineers*
- *International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers*
- *International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers*
- *International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers*
- *International Brotherhood of Teamsters*