

- My name is Mike Bridges. I am the President of the Longview/Kelso Building and Construction Trades Council and serve on the Executive Committee of the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council.
- I am a lifelong resident of Cowlitz County, a skilled electrician, and a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 48. I am currently employed as a Business Representative for my Union.
- The Council represents the skilled men and women in the Trades whose livelihoods depend on the construction of new projects, like the one proposed by Millennium.
- I have worked alongside these men and women and now work to serve them by securing opportunities to allow them to put their experience to work building world-class projects.
- The Puget Sound area is blessed with an economic boom – billions in new money, cranes as far as the eye can see, several new sports-arena proposals and other large capital-intensive projects.
- In Longview there is a very different economic reality – the reality of a second Washington that still faces unemployment rates almost 40% higher than King County.
- Longview is a working-class town built on natural resources, manufacturing, and trade – all of which are dependent on our deep-water ports on the Columbia River.
- The town has weathered multiple economic downturns because we have a well-established industrial area that is still home to major global manufacturers who rely on ports to export everything from forest products to grain to commodities that are mined.
- We need to create new jobs and opportunities for our children by diversifying.
- We are looking to add coal as a new commodity to the export mix. Millennium Bulk Terminals will phase in shipments of coal to Asia, expected to total 44 million metric tons annually at full build out; 25 million metric tons in Stage 1.
- Contrary to the claims made by some Seattle and Portland environmentalists, we do understand what's at stake –because we live here.
- The Building Trades supports responsible and consistent environmental regulations and has been involved in environmental cleanup at industrial facilities for decades and has also been leading the way to building and investing in renewable energy technology. We believe that projects like Millennium are essential in the journey towards cleaner sources of energy, and we know that this terminal can be built and operated safely and within the environmental requirements of the law. Millennium has already demonstrated a commitment to going above and beyond those

environmental requirements in the millions of dollars it has spent cleaning up the terminal site, and I am confident that they will maintain that level of commitment.

- We know what it means to live in an industrial town. And we support Millennium Bulk Terminals and its project in Longview because we know what it will do for us locally.
- We do this because we know that a new export terminal would bring thousands of new jobs to an area of the state eager to put people back to work.
- Our unemployment rates speak volumes, as do the large number of our families who have to rely on free-and-reduced lunches in our schools each day.
- Finding family-wage jobs is tough. Many of our skilled Trades workers are forced to make long daily commutes or even travel to other states to find steady work. Millennium presents an opportunity for my members to return to the days when they could go to work in the morning and come home at the end of the day in time for dinner with their family.
- I also want to take a minute to talk about the benefits to the community and to those children who are not college-bound. Only 16% of residents of Cowlitz County have a college degree.
- I am a firm believer that our children can have a future here with a good family-wage job and do not necessarily need to have a college degree.
- Many people unfamiliar with the Building Trades forget that one of the basic functions of our Unions is to provide on-the-job training to workers wanting a well-paying career.
- It has dominated the news lately that the majority of high school graduates do NOT get a college education. And many of those that do and want to return to the town where they grew up find that the job opportunities are few and far between, and end being forced to make a home in a different community. This has prompted much discussion at all levels of government about how to expand CTE – Career Technical Education.
- Career Technical Education is precisely what the Building Trades do. Each Trade covers the cost of training of the next generation of skilled workers, including tuition, books, and tools, all while providing benefits like health care and pension contributions. We do this without any government funding because these workers are too important to us to let budget shortages and partisan politics get in the way of their careers.
- However, unlike the college system, we do not take on new ‘students’ unless we have a job opportunity for them. This how our on-the-job training works – it’s called an apprenticeship program.

- But the Building Trades can only admit new apprentices into our programs when there are apprenticeship job opportunities in the marketplace. This is why big construction projects like Millennium's coal export terminal are essential. The size and duration of this project makes it possible for us to responsibly gauge how many new people to start on a career path in the Building Trades so we can keep them busy learning and working throughout their entire training.
- This commitment to steady employment throughout the apprenticeship program is especially important for some of the more vulnerable groups we strive to bring into the Building Trades, such as our military veterans. Our Helmets to Hardhats program helps service men and women transfer their skills to careers within the construction industry. With a suicide rate of about 20 veterans per day, we want the apprenticeship to serve our veterans just like they served our county.
- This project is essential to creating opportunities for new skilled workers to be capable of earning a family wage in our community.
- Millennium signed a Project Labor Agreement with the Building Trades way back in 2013. This was unusual because it was so early in the process, but Millennium truly wanted to show its commitment to providing family-wage jobs for members of the community.
- As part of the Project Labor Agreement, the company pledged to invest in our future by creating opportunities for new workers to learn the trades through apprenticeship programs. It also contains a commitment to the Helmets to Hardhats program, which is actually required in all Building Trades Project Labor Agreements.
- Millennium agreed to use skilled Union Building Trades workers on the project, but also agreed to search for these workers locally first.
- Without the tech boom that the Puget Sound area has enjoyed, our community has had to look for other economic opportunities that play to our strengths as an industrial community with access to major trade routes.
- The terminal would be an asset to the state's trade network, providing private investment in rail and other infrastructure to help ensure rapid delivery of other commodities.
- This creates jobs in areas well beyond the boundaries of Millennium's project.
- It also supports infrastructure for future shorelines development plans-and the jobs they bring-in places close to home, like Barlow Point, a property just downriver from Millennium that the Port of Longview recently acquired for growth.
- Millennium's project would add millions in annual tax revenue for schools and public services. At a time when state revenue is needed most, we've suddenly become very picky about where that tax money should come from — which works if you live in the Puget Sound bubble.

- Millennium is not asking for special tax breaks, like Boeing did, or challenging communities to bid against each other, like Amazon is doing. Millennium has just asked our community, and our state, to treat this project's applications like other port projects have been treated.
- This project has endured the most rigorous scrutiny ever by state regulators under the most stringent environmental standards in the country. Opposing industrial activity, imposing endless regulations and cherry-picking export commodities leaves no future for Cowlitz County. My Building Trades members just want the same chance that their parents and grandparents had here in Longview, which is to have a local job with wages that can support a family and actually get to spend time with that family after a full day of work.
- Millennium's project will provide the jobs and opportunities our community needs. That is why the Building Trades support the project.

While others haven't been willing to fairly consider Millennium's permit applications, we are trusting you will apply the same rules to Millennium's application that have been applied for decades to countless other projects along the River. We are asking you to approve the shorelines permits needed for Millennium to move forward because of the benefits this terminal will provide to our community now and for the next generation.