

REG - 026

Rick Larsen statement at Direct Service Industry BPA Forum

September 8, 2006

My name is Luke Loeffler, and I am Congressman Rick Larsen's District Representative in Whatcom County. I am here to speak on behalf of Congressman Larsen in support of the Alcoa: Intalco Works aluminum smelter in Ferndale, Washington. I would now like to read to you the following statement from Rick.

Dear Northwest Energy Community:

I am sorry that I cannot be here today. Today is an important day for my constituents and I hope to lend my voice in support of the effort to maintain family wage jobs in Washington state and the region.

As the Bonneville Power Administration's Regional Employment and Economic Impact Study shows, the jobs at Intalco create a sizeable economic contribution to the region.

The conversations that you have here today will have real consequences on real people. The aluminum workers have been part of the Northwest family for over 60 years. They deserve to have the same economic opportunities and competitive advantage as workers for other great regional industries.

Due to the strength of the aluminum market, we are in a position today to create stable family wage industrial jobs in the region at a time when these types of jobs are disappearing all around the country. By working together as a region, we can provide this opportunity to DSIs without giving them a better deal than other BPA customers.

It is my hope that all of BPA's customers including, Direct Service Industries, can work together to fairly resolve the many challenges affecting the next rate period. Aluminum workers have long been an important part of our community. We see the contribution they have made to the Northwest industry, feel the impact that they have had on their communities, and fear what will happen to those communities if the jobs go away.

I hope that today's conversation is productive and leads towards a fair solution for the Aluminum industry in the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

Rick Larsen

Member of Congress