

Jon Evans, President and CEO of Lithium Americas opening statement

Chairman Hickenlooper, Ranking Member Braun, and members of the committee, my name is Jon Evans, and I'm the President and CEO of Lithium Americas Corporation (LAC). I greatly appreciate your focus on workforce development for critical minerals development. Finding the skilled workforce my project and industry needs to thrive is a significant challenge, and I commend you for working to address this important issue.

Lithium Americas is building a major lithium mine and processing facility in Northern Nevada called the Thacker Pass Project. We have been working on Thacker Pass for more than a decade and are pleased to be fully permitted and funded to move forward with this essential project. Once in operation in 2027, we will produce enough lithium carbonate for approximately 800,000 electric vehicle batteries per year. That's a marked improvement on the U.S.'s ability to provide the materials we need. To start, the project's offtake will be sold to General Motors. This will profoundly assist with their transition to EVs.

Workforce development is a challenge we're meeting head-on. Lithium Americas will utilize as many as 2,000 skilled workers to build Thacker Pass. To ensure we get the workers we need in a remote area of Nevada, we entered into a Project Labor Agreement with the North Americas Building Trade Unions. NABTU knows how to recruit local and regional professionals to build large-scale projects like ours and to get the job done right.

Once completed, Lithium Americas will employ roughly 350 full-time professionals at our Thacker Pass facility. These jobs will operate sophisticated processing and chemical manufacturing plants, and the workers we will need are not readily available. To meet this need, we have embarked on aggressive efforts working with the University of Nevada, Great Basin College in Nevada, the State of Nevada and more to implement the training we need so our future workforce is ready to go once Thacker Pass construction is completed in 2027.

Lithium Americas is committed to doing this project right. That includes sound environmental stewardship, ensuring the benefits of our project accrue to local communities including the Fort McDdermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, and providing family-supporting careers in this exciting and emerging battery industry.

Because of the significance of our project and being an industry leader from the start, Lithium Americas has been committed to engaging with local community and Tribal members. This active dialogue has allowed Lithium Americas to be transparent about the Project's details and its impacts. Lithium Americas has participated in numerous open houses, community meetings, one-on-one dialogues; provided numerous tours;

and emphasized employment opportunities and other ways the Project could benefit local and Tribal members.

Over the past several years, many throughout Humboldt County have expressed interest in working on site and participated in job skills training coordinated or provided by LAC. Numerous members of the Tribe have emphasized that this Project allows members to stay home or return home because of the good jobs we will provide.

Lithium Americas and the Fort McDermitt Tribe have a formal Community Benefits Agreement founded on years of active engagement. It focuses on ensuring the Tribe can benefit from job creation at Thacker Pass by committing to additional job training and employment opportunities for tribal members, as well as providing infrastructure development and support for cultural education and preservation. Lithium Americas has also agreed to build a \$5 million community center for the Tribe that includes a preschool and daycare so parents are able to take advantage of the jobs we'll create while knowing their kids are safe and secure.

Larina Bell, Fort McDermitt's Tribal Chairwoman, commented on the announcement of the Department of Energy loan that will help finance construction of the Project that, "Thacker Pass will provide important economic and employment opportunities for members of our Tribe."

In the nearby town of Orovada, Lithium Americas has committed to building a new K-8 public school. A leading motivator for this community investment is to ensure prosperity at Thacker Pass benefits many generations of locals starting in elementary school and potentially continuing through lifetime, quality careers.

Lithium Americas is committed to meeting the focus of this committee by growing a skilled workforce to fill family-supporting careers in jobs that benefit the nation's security, bolster the state and local economies, and fulfill a rapidly growing demand to electrify our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you today. I look forward to your questions.