

To whom it may concern:

When considering building the coal port in Longview, Washington, it is imperative to take into account the associated economic, health, and environmental impacts. I agree that something needs to be done to improve the economy in the Washington area, and that there is a great need to generate more jobs in the Washington area, as well as to create new opportunities for export and economic growth. However, I do not believe that building a coal port is the best way to accomplish this. I do not agree that building a coal port in Longview Washington is the best way to accomplish this, as the demand for coal in Asian countries is starting to decrease; a trend that is likely to continue until coal is no longer in use. The Pacific Northwest is known for being at the forefront of clean energy technology. I believe a better alternative would be to seek out expansion in energy production sources, such as solar and wind energy, instead of coal. There is a better opportunity for growth with clean energy sources, and with that, a greater opportunity for jobs that will be long-lasting and economic growth that will continue far into the future.

I do not see how building a coal port could be justified when it produces so few jobs, would not significantly improve the local economy, and could be short-lived as the demand for coal continues to decrease. The Washington area needs jobs and an economy it can rely on, and I do not believe that its future lies in coal export. It is also important to consider the negative impacts that coal and coal transport would have on the property values of the Washington area. The state of Washington has seen continual growth for decades, which could be negatively impacted by continuous coal trains and coal dust pollution if this port were to be built. This could have an overall negative impact on our area's growth and economy, which is contrary to the intentions of building this coal port.

There are many health and environmental concerns associated with the mining, shipping, and burning of coal. According to the Multnomah County Health Department, coal burning and coal dust have been associated with such health issues as heart and lung problems, growth and developmental issues, injury, death, mental health issues, stress, and cancers. I do not believe that building a port whose lifeblood is toxic to the health of the surrounding human population and environment would send a good message to Washington communities, especially when building such a port would generate so few jobs.

It is important to recognize that the associated health and environmental impacts also far exceed our area. The burning of fossil fuels has the most significant impact on the health of the atmosphere, and has been associated with global climate change. Therefore, shipping coal from the states across the globe means that this energy resource is not only negatively impacting the health of the people and environments in our local communities, but those across the globe. Coal and other fossil fuels are quickly becoming an energy source of the past. I believe it is imperative to consider the future; the future jobs and economy in the Washington area, the health and sustainability of our local and global environments, the health of the people in our communities and across the globe, and what we are leaving behind for future generations not only in Washington, but around the world.

Respectfully,
Danielle Lindholm, Vancouver Washington resident.