



WASHINGTON BUILDING TRADES

LEE NEWGENT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MARK MARTINEZ
PRESIDENT

November 21, 2016

Millennium Bulk Terminals NEPA EIS
c/o ICF International
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview NEPA Draft EIS

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to praise the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on its thorough and comprehensive draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). After more than four years of analysis, I strongly urge the Corps to approve this project because of the significant economic benefits it will provide our struggling local communities.

As you are likely aware, one in four jobs in Washington is directly tied to trade, making us one of the most dependent states in the nation on this industry. This is our reality, and as such, projects like Millennium are critical in creating the kind of economy and future we would feel comfortable leaving to future generations.

Following the approval of this export terminal facility, it is estimated that our state would see \$680 million in private investments, approximately 2,850 direct and indirect jobs and more than \$43 million in state and county tax revenues. These statistics, of course, sound and look good when referenced. But it's important to remember, these are jobs, many of which will come from highly skilled trade labor, can put Washingtonians back to work and reduce our climbing unemployment rate; nearly 9 percent in certain counties. These numbers also mean more money to invest in our communities including schools, law enforcement, infrastructure and small businesses that have been in families for generations.

These benefits are extraordinary and come at a critical time. But it's also worth noting that Millennium will spearhead these advancements while still complying with stringent environmental guidelines. Both the SEPA and NEPA draft EIS's for Millennium confirm this. They concluded that emissions from the terminal would comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and that there would be no "significant adverse environmental impacts from coal dust." Clearly, economic competitiveness and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive goals.

Now outfitted with a successful and exhaustive NEPA review, I strongly urge the Corps to continue its permitting for Millennium Bulk Terminals and issue a final EIS and approval as quickly as possible. This is a golden opportunity for our state and its consumers, but most importantly those who are ready to get to work in building it, and we cannot afford to let it pass us by.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment and appreciate your support and efficiency on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Newgent', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lee Newgent, Executive Secretary
Washington State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

opeiu8/afl-cio