



975 Carpenter Rd NE, Suite 301
Lacey, WA 98516

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 Proposed Project – NEPA EIS Public Comment

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write this letter on behalf of the more than 47,000 member families of the Washington Farm Bureau, to express our support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' detailed draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of Millennium Bulk Terminals project in Cowlitz County and request that final approval be granted for this project to move forward with operation.

The Washington Farm Bureau takes its role of representing local farming and agriculture seriously. We seek to work together with all policymakers, regulators and industries to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement that can promote a positive well-being in Washington and particularly in our farming and agricultural sectors.

We cannot stress enough how critical this project is to our state. While many believe Millennium will only assist in coal transportation, the reality is anything but. Next to manufacturing, agriculture is the largest, most trade-dependent segment of Washington's economy.

The private investments – like the Millennium project – in Washington's port and rail infrastructure is desperately needed, and will guarantee growers and shippers can offer their goods to existing markets, as well as untapped ones – regardless of whether their commodity is being shipped down the shore to California or thousands of miles away. Millennium would allow us to bring products including grain, corn and wheat to market that otherwise couldn't, translating into substantial economic support that this particular industry in Washington desperately needs.

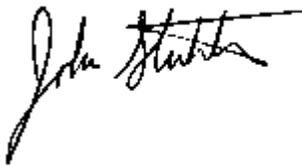
If approved, our state will see \$680 million in private investments, over 2,900 direct and indirect jobs, and \$37 million in state tax revenues. Our agricultural community—and Washington as a whole—has been waiting for years for these kind of economic opportunities, and that is why we call on the Corps to grant this important project its final approval. Failure to approve Millennium will create consequences our state cannot afford.

Finally, this project has been in the approval queue for four and a half years in large part due to foot-dragging on behalf of regulators with environmental agendas. Yet the reality is this project reached Washington's environmental standards in both the state and federal EIS documents. We should not allow an unfair and lengthy review process influenced by narrow political agendas further delay the growth of vital trade and exports and jeopardize our region's economic progress.

Regardless of coal's place in the global energy economy, here in Washington, we need to expand our trade capacity so that we can carry on our region's legacy as a vital trade gateway.

Thank you for your timely action on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Stuhlmiller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

John Stuhlmiller
Chief Executive Officer
Washington Farm Bureau