



**SELECT COMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

November 28, 2016

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

RE: Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview Proposed Action – NEPA EIS

To Whom it May Concern:

The Wyoming Legislature's Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview (Millennium) project. The Millennium project would revitalize an industrial area along the Columbia River and develop it into a port facility that could export up to 44 million metric tons of coal each year to markets across the Pacific Ocean. The Committee emphatically supports the expeditious completion of this project.

The Millennium project has the potential to help revitalize the Wyoming economy. Wyoming mines produced more than 375 million tons of coal last year, and the financial contribution to state and local governments in the form of taxes, royalties and fees was approximately \$1 billion. Wyoming's share of federal mineral royalties—royalties paid to mine the leased coal lands—surpassed \$200 million. These revenues fund large scale transportation projects, K-12 School Capital Construction projects, social service programs and higher education needs in our state. However, with demand for coal currently depressed, these revenues are on the decline. The Millennium project would provide a new avenue for Wyoming coal to make it to market and help strengthen Wyoming's economy.

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The Millennium project will benefit the local community as well. The project will likely generate more than \$102 million in state and local tax revenue for Washington State and Cowlitz County over a 30-year period and result in more than 2,600 direct and indirect construction jobs, as well as 300 permanent jobs. The port expansion project has received considerable support from organized labor, small businesses, agriculture, and larger state business groups. The project would revitalize an industrial brownfield site in a smart fashion to expand trade capacity, provide jobs, and boost long-term economic growth that protects the financial security of families and the local community.

Thank you for considering our comments supporting the Millennium project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Norine Kasperik and Eli Bebout. The signature on the left is 'Norine Kasperik' and the signature on the right is 'Eli Bebout'.

Representative Norine Kasperik and Senator Eli Bebout, Co-Chairmen