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November 28, 2016

# AEROSPACE MACHINISTS INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT LODGE 751

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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**

To Whom it May Concern:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminal project in Longview and write today in support of the construction and operation of this world-class export facility and the hundreds of family wage jobs and millions of dollars in economic revenue it will bring to Southern Washington.

Having spent 39 years in the trade-dependent aerospace industry, having served on the Governor's Unemployment Task Force and now acting as the Legislative and Political Director for the Aerospace Machinists Union District Lodge 751, I've seen first-hand the stifling effects the protracted permitting process can have on economic investment and job creation in our communities.

In an increasingly competitive global economy, Washington workers need an economic climate that not only allows the modern infrastructure necessary for current businesses to be successful, but will also attract new businesses and jobs into our state - the first step to achieving this is an efficient permitting process.

The Millennium Bulk Terminals project has been awaiting approval for more than four years. That's a statistic likely to scare off most employers looking to build new facilities here — and the family-wage jobs that go with them. It already happened in Tacoma, where an investor pulled out of a methanol plant project, citing an uncertain review process. Washington needs a standard timeframe for its review of proposed projects.

I've worked hard to be a part of the effort to ensure the state's economy and regulatory environment protects family-wage jobs for the thirty three thousand hourly employees represented by the Machinists Union DL 751; but if we don't get serious about our approach to infrastructure investment; I fear the next generation of Machinists will have to look out of state for opportunities to succeed and build a life for themselves.

This concern does not outweigh the need for a thorough environmental review itself: Washington state labor has worked hand-in-hand with government and industry over the years to build a first-rate manufacturing sector that also has set a global standard for environmental care. But the DEIS revealed that we're not in a position where we will have to trade environmental safety for opportunity when it comes to the expanded Longview terminal.

Thankfully we don't have to choose between environmental protections and opportunity. We're proud to be on the leading edge of environmentalism, and the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals will be another example of our commitment to Washington's environmental quality of life. But I urge project leads to remember that as we wait for the permits to be approved, \$680 million of private investment waits to grow the local economy, support the local government needs with additional tax revenue and support hundreds of family-wage jobs throughout the region.

While I understand and appreciate the need to be thorough when evaluating potential environmental impacts, more permitting delays that would extend the four-year process will hurt economic growth, new jobs and private-investment in our region and should be avoided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Larry Brown**

Legislative/Political Director  
IAM&AW District Lodge 751