



The Oregon Conservancy Foundation

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BEFORE THE WA STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND COWLITZ COUNTY

Testimony of Cathryn Chudy, Oregon Conservancy Foundation

May 24, 2016

My name is Cathryn Chudy. I live in Vancouver, WA and I have been a therapist with suicidal children for 30 years. The physical health of children affects their mental health. I am concerned about the significant amounts of airborne pollutants and related disease from diesel engines and coal dust that will affect the health of citizens, especially children, along the rail communities and in Longview should this terminal be built.

As a health professional, I am concerned that the DEIS does not incorporate a Health Impact Assessment for the public to review and comment on prior to the final EIS being completed. Diesel particulate matter, coal dust, and noise exposure are associated with a wide range of serious health effects. Given that the DEIS does confirm significant adverse and unavoidable risks and impacts to human health, I urge the Washington Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County to select the “No Action” alternative in the Final EIS.

I am also a Board member of the Oregon Conservancy Foundation, which raises awareness about the risks and impacts of global warming. Rail and vessel emissions from transporting 44 million tons of coal every year through rail communities and into Longview will turn this terminal, should it be built, into one of the biggest greenhouse gas emitters in Washington state. This directly contradicts clean energy and fossil fuel transition policies recently passed in our state. The Washington Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County have a unique opportunity to protect our children and grandchildren from the future ravages of global warming impacts by doing the right thing as deciders on this proposed coal export terminal in Longview.

I urge you to take seriously your obligation to ensure the health and future well being of all of us by doing the right thing: say a final “No” to this proposal.

And the cost of a thing is the amount of what I will call life which is required to be exchanged for it, immediately or in the long run.

– Henry David Thoreau