RESOLUTION NO. M-1793

OPPOSING THE CONSTRUTION OF COAL EXPORT FACILITIES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

WHEREAS, coal mining, processing, transport and combustion creates negative human and environmental health impacts; and

WHEREAS, mining and burning coal releases harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, accelerating climate deterioration, and resulting in such impacts as reduced snowpack, ocean acidification, increased flooding, summer droughts, loss of habitat and increased forest fires; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has recognized the negative economic, public health, and environmental impacts of climate change on this state, see Chapter 80.80 RCW and Executive Order No. 0905; and

WHEREAS, Washington State and other states are taking steps toward reducing American dependence on coal-fired power, including the 2011 passage of the TransAlta Energy Transition Bill, making possible the retirement of the state's last coal-fired power plant by 2025; and

WHEREAS, The City of Olympia previously passed Resolution M-1550 supporting efforts to curb global warming, adopting greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for The City of Olympia, and outlining actions toward achieving those goals; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that that a single new coal export terminal in Western Washington, such as the Gateway Pacific Terminal at Cherry Point, would have a build-out export volume of approximately 50 million tons of coal per year and could result in an increase in coal train traffic of at least 9 additional trains per day along regional rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, coal is commonly transported via open-top rail cars that allow the spread of coal dust and chunks of coal that impact air, soil and water quality; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the coal destined for Gateway Pacific Terminal, will travel via uncovered rail cars through dozens of Washington communities, including land adjacent to the City of Olympia's main supply of drinking water, McAllister Springs and Wellfield; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has been a national leader in creating clean-energy jobs and promoting sustainable global economic development, while coal export continues to promote harmful and unsustainable energy development practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, that:

The City of Olympia opposes the establishment of coal export terminals in the Pacific Northwest and supports economic growth that is consistent with Washington State's commitment to fight the serious impacts of climate change, and;

The City of Olympia calls on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Washington State Department of Ecology, Whatcom County and other relevant regulatory bodies to fully and carefully assess, evaluate and disclose the impacts of the Gateway Pacific Terminal and similar proposed facilities.

APPROVED AND PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL THIS 18th day of June, 2013.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY