



**SELECT COMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

June 8, 2016

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

RE: Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview Proposed Action – Public Comment

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 prepared by the State of Washington and Cowlitz County. 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 - 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

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provide a new avenue for Wyoming coal to make it to market and help strengthen Wyoming's economy.

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.

The Committee is alarmed that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement proposed a carbon offset requirement on the project to obtain approval. Firstly, the Millennium project may not increase global greenhouse emissions in any significant way because the coal exported through Millennium to foreign markets may displace coal that would have been mined and used in the those foreign markets. Secondly, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not show that the maximum amount of possible coal exported from the Millennium project would appreciably increase global warming even if the project does increase global greenhouse emissions. Thirdly, the proponents of this project indicate such a requirement could cost upwards of \$25 million to the project. It is unreasonable to force the Millennium project to address cumulative lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, including the purchase of offset credits for up to 1.3 million tons of carbon dioxide that will be emitted annually halfway across the world when utilized for electricity generation. We are aware of no precedent for such a requirement of studying the carbon impact from the lifecycle of a shipped product. In fact, it is difficult to find a single port facility project that has ever been required to do such an analysis for shipping materials such as heavy machinery, wind turbines, cars, medical equipment, airplanes, technological equipment, microchips, hybrid batteries or agricultural products. Our government should not treat coal differently.

Thank you for considering our comments supporting the Millennium project.

Sincerely,



Representative Norine Kasperik and Senator Eli Bebout, Co-Chairmen