



Washington State Senate

220 John A. Cherberg Building
P.O. Box 40449
Olympia, WA 98504-0449

Senator Annette Cleveland
49th Legislative District

Annette.Cleveland@leg.wa.gov
Phone: (360) 786-7696

June 1, 2016

Sally Toteff, Director
Southwest Regional Office
Washington State Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Elaine Placido
Director, Building and Planning
Cowlitz County
207 4th Avenue North
Kelso, WA 98626

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a proud daughter of a longshoreman. Work along the Columbia River in Longview and Vancouver allowed my father to support our family. We are not unique. Hundreds of other men and women in Washington State make their living loading and unloading cargo from vessels on the Columbia River. It is critical to me that we, as a state, are able to preserve these jobs and grow our trade economy.

Obtaining timely decisions on proposed maritime-related project permits is essential to attracting the investment needed to build these projects. I fully support providing the community with the information necessary to consider a project; and the chance to voice its opinion. However, I am concerned about allowing the regulatory process to be used to impede progress toward a decision on the necessary permits for a project.

I appreciate that the Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County have carefully and completely considered the Millennium Bulk Terminals project in Longview. The release of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) represents an important step in the evaluation of this project. While I wholeheartedly support pursuing fully our due diligence, I am disturbed that it has taken over four years to get to this point.

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I am fearful that other potential projects to come will look at this process and will be discouraged from investing the time and resources to pursue the needed approvals for their future projects.

Project applicants and the public have a right to a timely decision on whether the project meets the legal requirements needed for a permit. Now that the DEIS has been issued for Millennium, and an extensive opportunity for public comment has been provided, I urge you to demonstrate that our state is willing to provide certainty by issuing a timely final review and permit decision on the applications submitted for this project.

Jobs, and the families along the Columbia River supported by these jobs, depend on this certainty.

Sincerely,

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

Annette Cleveland
State Senator, 49th District

cc: Maia Bellon
Keith Phillips