

RE: Public Comments Regarding the Environmental Statement for the Proposed Millennium Bulk Terminal

To whom it may concern:

Moving forward with construction and operation of the marine terminal to export coal to foreign, especially Asian, markets is a step in the right direction with regard to protecting the global environment and providing economic stimulus to Washington, Wyoming, and other states that would be involved. There are several reasons for this.

- 1) Asian markets are increasingly relying on coal-fired plants for generation of electricity. Among the largest markets in Asia are China and India. Coal-fired plants are less expensive to construct and maintain than wind, solar, hydroelectric, and nuclear plants. In addition, China is the largest producer of coal in Asia, with India seeking to claim the title of largest coal mine in Asia in the coming years. (<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-asia-coal-climatechange-idUSKCN0RZ2G020151006>)
- 2) Neither India nor China have made significant commitments to international agreements regarding responsible use of resources... they will continue to use the least expensive form of electricity available without reservation.
- 3) Domestic coal, especially Powder River Basin (PRB) coal (from Wyoming), is substantially cleaner burning than coal that is mined in Asia. For example, PRB coal has very low sulfur and nitrogen oxide content when compared to other coals. When burning PRB coal, formation of acid rain is significantly reduced. In addition, domestic coal-fired plants have found that it is less expensive, and more environmentally effective, to use PRB coal rather than use scrubbers or other technology and continue to burn higher-sulfur coal. (<http://www.cba-ssd.com/Applications/knowledgeBase/PRBcoal/PRBcoalProperty.htm>)
- 4) PRB coal is very near-surface in Wyoming. The environmental footprint of retrieving it is substantially smaller than the impact created from Chinese or Indian mines.
- 5) The infrastructure for delivering coal to Asia is already in place, with the exception of a port from which to ship the coal. Transporting coal by rail to Washington yields a small carbon footprint contrasted to other forms of transportation, including those used in Asian markets.
- 6) Creating this port directly stimulates ongoing job growth and local economies in several US states.

In summary, proceeding with this port is both economically and environmentally sound. Those who are concerned with global environmental quality should support this cause, as Asian markets will continue to seek coal at ever-higher rates, and, with the construction of this port, we have a direct opportunity to influence the quality of the coal that they use, as these countries largely do not participate in environmentally-conscious efforts. Those who block efforts to construct this port in the name of environmentalism do so with the inadvertent consequence of

creating more environmental problems- namely, Asian coal (that is “dirtier”), mined using environmentally-harmful practices, will be the primary source of electricity for a substantial, and growing, portion of the world’s population. If the Asian markets are going to use coal, we would be wise to provide them with the cleanest-burning coal available.