

Office of the Governor

June 10, 2016

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

RE: Millennium Bulk Terminals Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Coal is critical to Wyoming's and the nation's economy. Coal contributes an estimated \$1.1 billion in taxes to Wyoming annually. This revenue supports schools, hospitals, roads, and other critical services. Nationally, coal generates roughly 39% of our electricity needs. The state of Washington receives roughly 15% of its electricity from coal. This low cost fuel helps reduce the cost of electricity, leaving citizens with more money to save for retirement, pay for school, or simply provide household necessities.

I support the Millennium Bulk Terminal project. It will create jobs and generate additional tax revenue for several states. Additionally, it will provide foreign countries access to a cleaner source for power generation than they currently use, which benefits everyone.

I am pleased that the DEIS recognizes that coal dust from rail transport will have negligible impact on the environment. However, I have two principle concerns. First, Chapter 3 of the DEIS refers to coal as a "hazardous material." Ch. 3, p. 3.6-22. No state or federal law defines coal as a hazardous material, and neither should the DEIS.

Second, the DEIS requires the applicant to mitigate for carbon emissions occurring from coal burned overseas. These requirements are legally tenable, and put other critical components of our country's economy at risk. For example, the Port of Grays Harbor, Washington, ships nearly 100,000 automobiles to foreign markets each year. Boeing exports are used in roughly 150 countries. Will these companies now have to mitigate for carbon emissions from burning gasoline and jet fuel outside of the United States?

Instead of advancing policies that discourage using coal, leaders should support innovation as the pathway to reducing carbon emissions where coal remains a valuable commodity. Wyoming is leading this innovation effort through a program developed at the Integrated Test Center in

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Gillette, Wyoming. Here, researchers will compete to identify solutions for reducing carbon emissions, while creating new markets for coal. The Millennium Bulk Terminal project will provide markets for this innovation.

I encourage a timely final Environmental Impact Statement reflecting these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew H. Mead', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:dh