



Deborah Kafoury Multnomah County Chair

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Millennium Bulk Terminal DEIS
% ICF International
710 Second Ave, Suite 550
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Ms. Butorac, Ms. Placido, and Ms. Guy,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminal (MBT) in Longview, Washington. The MBT plan to export 44 million metric tons of coal each year poses an acute risk to the residents of Multnomah County, and I urge you to oppose the project.

The MBT plan would bring with it the potential for coal train fires; increased particulate emissions from locomotive exhaust and coal dust; congestion and collision along roadways and rail lines; and associated detrimental health outcomes including injury and death. As Chair and CEO of Multnomah County I have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of county residents. It is reasonable and prudent to ask that coal export projects demonstrate that they are not harmful to the public's health and safety before moving forward. In fact, the DEIS demonstrates that county residents will be exposed to additional risks from significant increases in coal train traffic, and lacks a rigorous Health Impact Assessment and any mitigation strategies for Multnomah County residents.

I have serious concerns that fossil fuel transport in our state will further exacerbate environmental injustices faced by vulnerable communities living near rail lines. A Multnomah County Health Department analysis from February 2013 (attached for reference) found that almost one-third of Multnomah County's population lives within 2 km of rail lines that may carry coal, and that about one in nine county residents live within 500 m of these rail lines. The demographics of this area show that people of color make up a larger portion of the population in areas near rail lines than they do in the county as a whole. Communities of color in Multnomah County are already disproportionately suffering from environmentally related health impacts such as asthma without adding the increased burden of additional coal trains.

Finally, Multnomah County recognizes that changes in our climate will fall hardest on those who are already the most vulnerable members of our community, the same people the county serves every

day. Multnomah County is already seeing those impacts, with record heat over the past two summers causing spikes in emergency room visits. We have reached the point in history when we must turn toward the clean energy of the future. The Millennium Bulk Terminal is an investment in the energy of the past, and is a bad investment for the people of Multnomah County who will experience significant detrimental impacts without any benefits.

I request that you select the "No Action Alternative." If this project moves forward, I request that a comprehensive, independent Health Impact Assessment, that includes a public review process, be completed before a Final EIS is released.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

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

Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Chair