



**CHAMBER of
COMMERCE**
CAMPBELL COUNTY

314 S. Gillette Ave.
Gillette, WY 82716
www.gillettechamber.com
307-682-3673 (p)
307-682-0538 (f)

June 13, 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

Dear Review Team:

As you know, Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview, LLC (Millennium) is proposing to construct and operate a marine terminal for export of coal in Cowlitz County, Washington. The Cowlitz County Department of Building and Planning and the Washington State Department of Ecology are working cooperatively as co-Lead Agencies for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is required for this project. The following comment letter is being submitted on behalf of the Campbell County Chamber of Commerce.

The Campbell County Chamber of Commerce, located in northeast Wyoming, serves as the voice of business for its 650 members. The region enjoys a strong economic base underpinned by energy development. Coal produced in the region reliably fuels affordable electricity generation in 30 states across the nation. The coal industry is critical to Wyoming. Following last month's devastating round of layoffs, the industry still employs nearly 6,000 individuals directly with a payroll of nearly \$700 million and more than 2,000 contractors. The average coal mining job pays over \$83,000 per year, well above the state average. And every coal mining job supports another 2-3 jobs in the service and supply industry. Wyoming mines produced over 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, was over \$200 million.

The Millennium proposal should be commended for the vision to reclaim an industrial site going unused, to make way for a safe and productive import-export facility. These activities have already improved the environment and will provide stable family-wage jobs and vital tax revenue for Longview and both Wyoming and Washington state.

The notion that a commodity like coal can be singled out for its carbon footprint, while not applying that same measuring stick to every transportation project built in Washington, every new office or school building under construction, or other commodities shipped internationally, is simply unfair and illogical. Powder River Basin low sulfur coal is among the cleanest coal on earth and is a necessary part of the fuel load that needs to power humankind's growing electricity needs from hospitals to schools to factories that return products to the United States for consumption.

Thank you for considering our comments on this project. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Charlene Murdock
Executive Director