

RESOLUTION NO. 4182

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEAVERTON, OREGON, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO TRANSPORTING COAL ACROSS THE STATE OF OREGON AND THROUGH THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE DUE TO NEGATIVE HEALTH IMPACTS AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO THE EARTH'S CLIMATE

WHEREAS, mounting evidence demonstrates the negative health impacts of coal mining, processing, transport and combustion; and

WHEREAS, air quality studies show living near major transportation routes and industrial areas correlates with higher rates of respiratory and other illnesses; and

WHEREAS, studies show mining and burning coal releases harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, accelerating climate deterioration, and the mining of coal can result in erosion and toxic waste; and

WHEREAS, toxic pollutants from coal-fired energy plants in Asia rise in the winds and are carried in the jet streams over the Pacific Ocean, resulting in increased air pollution in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that mercury -- a potent neurotoxin -- is released from burning coal; and

WHEREAS, up to 500 pounds of coal dust can escape from each rail car in transit which is a health concern because it can cause asthma attacks, pulmonary inflammation, bronchitis, emphysema, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, coal is commonly transported via open-top rail cars or barges that allow the spread of coal dust and chunks of coal; and

WHEREAS, more than twenty cities and counties in the Pacific Northwest have passed resolutions or written letters expressing their concern about the potential adverse impacts of coal exports in their communities, and called for the Army Corps to study the cumulative and comprehensive impacts of coal exports; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon has been a national leader in creating clean-energy jobs and innovating, developing, demonstrating, and marketing clean energy technologies and practices that promote sustainable global economic development, and coal export promotes damaging and unsustainable energy development practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEAVERTON, OREGON:

1. The City of Beaverton opposes coal exports through the Columbia River Gorge and supports economic growth that does not jeopardize the State of Oregon's commitment to fight the serious impacts of climate change.
2. The City of Beaverton requests that the railroad mitigate any public safety hazards created by the transport of coal through the State of Oregon.
3. The City of Beaverton requests that railroads monitor the loading of coal at mines and at any transfer point as part of their contracts with the coal companies to assure best loading practices and to reduce the amount of coal and coal dust coming out of rail cars in route.

4. The City of Beaverton supports economic growth that contributes to citizens' health, safety, and well-being, and that on balance, adheres to principles of sustainable development and an overall reduction of carbon emissions.

5. The City of Beaverton requests that the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management and other responsible federal agencies undertake to perform a programmatic, comprehensive and area-wide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), studying the cumulative and comprehensive impacts of increased coal production from federal lands and all proposed coal export terminals in Oregon and Washington, and that site-specific EISs be conducted as well to allow for fully informed decisions before approval of any coal export facility.

6. The City of Beaverton supports the development and review of a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment prior to approval of coal export permits by any state, regional or federal agency.

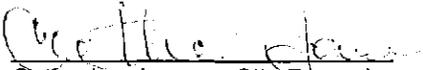
Adopted by the Council this 18th day of June, 2013.

Approved by the Mayor this 19th day of June, 2013.

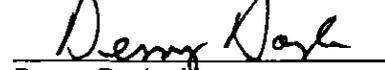
AYES: 3

NAYS: 2

ATTEST:


Catherine Jansen, City Recorder

APPROVED:


Denny Doyle, Mayor