



Governor John Kitzhaber
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Governor Kitzhaber,

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) applauds your recent announcement to “once and for all say no to coal exports from the Pacific Northwest.”

ONA fully supports your position and asks you to continue your work with state and regional leaders to ensure that coal is not transported through Oregon or along waterways adjacent to Oregon.

As you know, exposure to coal and coal particulate matter in high concentrations has been linked to multiple health problems, including heart attacks, strokes, asthma and pneumoconiosis. In addition, coal transportation can lead to harmful emissions and delay emergency responders.

As frontline members of our health care system, nurses share your concern about the negative health and environmental impacts increased coal transportation may cause.

At our convention earlier this month, ONA members from across the state overwhelmingly passed a resolution to support your recent statements about coal exports and ask you to do everything within your authority to stop coal transportation projects.

We believe coal transportation and exports are not in Oregonians’ best interests and ask you to use all available authority and resources to deny any coal export permit applications submitted to Oregon agencies.

By denying coal exports from Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, our region sets a positive standard for others to follow and takes an important step to ensure that our energy, health and economic policies truly benefit the people who live here.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. King".

Susan E. King, MS, RN, CEN, FAAN
Executive Director
Oregon Nurses Association

cc: The Honorable John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army
Department of State Lands Director Mary Abrams
Department of Environmental Quality Director Dick Pedersen
Energy Policy Advisor Margi Hoffman