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Washington State Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County Officials June 7, 2016
c/o ICF International
710 Second Ave, Suite 550
Seattle, WA 98104

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Subj: Millennium Bulk Terminals Draft EIS

I write today on behalf of all the monastics of Sravasti Abbey, a Buddhist center of learning and practice located near Newport, Washington and in close proximity to the many downline communities in eastern Washington and northern Idaho affected by the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals in Longview.

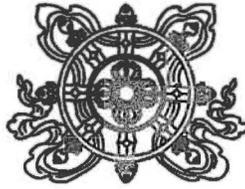
We at the monastery have dedicated our lives to the Buddha's teachings and strive to embody the values of compassion, respect for nature, and service to all beings. Because of our values, we raise our voices in strong opposition to the permitting of the Millennium Bulk Terminals.

From a global perspective, the Longview terminals will enable more climate changing coal to be extracted from the Powder River Basin, shipped through our communities, and burned in coal fired power plants abroad. This proposed terminal imperils humanity and all the creatures of our earth. In an age where the impact of advancing climate change is all around us, it is an immoral act to facilitate and expand the mining, shipment, and combustion of this dirtiest of fossil fuels - coal.

From a local perspective, coal's contribution to climate change is not abstract. We live close to the land and know all too well that our winters are shorter, our snow pack is less, our summers are longer and hotter, and wildfire threatens us for more and more weeks each year. And, we know that when rain does come, it is laced with mercury carried on the winds from places in East Asia where Powder River Basin coal is burned today, with more to be burned if you approve the Millennium Bulk Terminals. The draft EIS concludes that the terminal would have significant climate impacts ranging around 3.2 million metric tons of CO2 annually. When we consider that is equivalent to adding about 670,000 passenger cars on the road each year, the ultimate permitting of the terminals is completely irrational.

Our closest neighbors are even more affected by the proposed terminal. Communities like Spokane Valley, Spokane, and Cheney in Washington and East Hope, Sandpoint, Athol, Rathdrum, and Hauser in Idaho are the ones to carry the brunt of more coal trains. Sixteen more trains per day by itself may not seem significant. When added, however, to existing coal train shipments, to Bakken and Albertan oil train shipments, and the regular flow of agricultural and manufacturing shipments, the cumulative impacts put citizens at far greater risk. Marked delays for emergency vehicles at crossings, increased diesel particulate from multiengine trains,

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elevated noise levels, and reduced property values are but a few of the “human costs” of the proposed coal export terminal.

Mindful of the interconnectness of all life and living in the state of Washington, we are aware of Governor Inslee’s presence at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France last December. We were greatly encouraged when he signed international agreements promoting climate action and said, “This is an opportunity to renew our commitment to fighting carbon pollution and work across borders to find creative solutions to climate action. Washington is not alone when we act on climate...” We urge you to sharpen your assessments of the climate impact of the Millennium Bulk Terminal in the final EIS so that we may all live up to the pledges made by Governor Inslee.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, recently reminded us, “Religious leaders have a duty to speak out about climate change.” Pope Francis, another respected spiritual leader, has recently called on people to take measures to prevent and remedy global warming. As dedicated followers of the Buddha who care about the future of all beings on our planet, we raise our voices in strong opposition to the permitting of the Millennium Bulk Terminals.

Venerable Thubten Chodron

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