

1 MILLENNIUM BULK TERMINALS - LONGVIEW
2 SEPA DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
3 PUBLIC MEETING - QUIET ROOM

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5 MAY 24, 2016

6 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

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8 COWLITZ COUNTY EVENT CENTER

9 1900 Seventh Avenue

10 LONGVIEW, WA 98632

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19 Cheryl L. Vorhees, CSR, CCR, RPR

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21 Court Reporter
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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 SPEAKER 1: Some 15,000 years ago, at the
3 end of the last ice age, melted ice formed a huge
4 lake in Montana that eventually produced an
5 incomprehensibly large flood that came tearing
6 down to the sea.

7 The flood came as a massive wall of water
8 that carved out changes to the land. The water
9 that basically took the root of the Columbia
10 River. The Missoula flood made changes that
11 remain to this day.

12 Eons earlier, lakes formed in what is now
13 Montana and Wyoming, and supported life had died
14 and eventually formed coal. Now the coal is being
15 dug up and shipped down the route that the huge
16 Missoula did.

17 So far this river of coal is but a
18 trickle. But with this terminal it will become a
19 flood. Like the Missoula floods, changes will
20 happen. Changes that many here find extremely
21 frightening. Some changes will happen because of
22 accidents that now only carry probabilities.
23 Other changes will be part of the process of
24 global warming, of which this is but one
25 contributor.

1 Some changes will be due to the small
2 city, which will have a growing population that
3 will see this terminal as butter on their bread.
4 This will make stopping this river of coal all the
5 more difficult.

6 This shipping terminal is important
7 because if coal cannot be shipped to market it
8 will remain in the ground. In the ground it will
9 not be burned, it will not pollute the air as coal
10 dust, it will not end up in the Columbia.

11 That is why I'm talking today. Stopping
12 this terminal is a fight to prevent a ravaging
13 flood of coal that will change this area. How
14 change? Not for the better. And Longview don't
15 take the short view.

16 SPEAKER 2: I'm Elizabeth Waldorf. I
17 live in Corvallis, Oregon. I'm a retired college
18 environmental science teacher.

19 In the 1990s, I read Thom Hartmann's
20 book, The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight, and it
21 taught me the value of fossil fuels.

22 Fossil fuels are concentrated energy, and
23 so they allow us to do many, many things that
24 prior to their discovery we couldn't do except
25 with horsepower or human power. So they are an

1 enormous asset. We have used them to extremes and
2 have burned so many of them that we've polluted
3 our atmosphere, creating the greatest threat
4 humanity has ever had. They literally have the
5 possibility of driving us to extinction.

6 So this is a time when we need to
7 appreciate them and save them and keep them out of
8 the air.

9 SPEAKER 3: My name is Jayme King, and I
10 live in Longview. And I like Longview because
11 it's green and it's pretty and there's a beautiful
12 river. And the river has fish and wildlife. It's
13 a nice place to live.

14 The EIS statement says there will be
15 damage to wetlands, it says there will be damage
16 to the river. It says there will be coal dust.
17 It says all those things and yet we're still
18 talking about it.

19 I would ask that no action, I would ask
20 that we don't let the coal terminal go forward
21 because I live in Longview and I like it here.
22 Thank you.

23 SPEAKER 4: It occurs to me that, first
24 of all, I came down with -- not bronchitis, but
25 emphysema because I had smoked for -- smoked

1 cigarettes, a pack a day for, like, 27, 28 years,
2 something like that.

3 And so I eventually had to quit because
4 it got to the point where I couldn't breathe
5 anymore. And I don't know how many people are
6 acquainted with that kind of a condition, but I'm
7 sure people have been swimming and, you know, took
8 a dive under the water and held their breath while
9 they were under. And sometimes, when you're under
10 there a little bit too long, you start wondering
11 whether you're going to get to the surface in time
12 to get another breath of air.

13 Well, having emphysema to the degree that
14 I had it is similar, except for the differences is
15 that you don't have to come to the surface, you're
16 already there. You can inhale and exhale and
17 inhale and exhale as fast and as much as you want
18 but you're not getting any air. And it's like
19 you're still under water, trying to breathe but
20 not getting any air.

21 And in the progress of healing from the
22 condition, I just quit smoking April 30th of '94,
23 so it's been 20-some-odd years now. I breathe
24 quite well these days. But in those days, if a
25 diesel anything went driving by and I caught just

1 a whiff of that exhaust, it would choke me up
2 (snapping fingers) that quick.

3 And so people who are already
4 experiencing that kind of situation don't need to
5 have it exacerbated, and people who are not run
6 the risk of, of course, coming down with it, if
7 they allow themselves to be exposed to conditions
8 that will, you know, cause it.

9 And the thing is that, again, I don't
10 know how many people are acquainted with coal
11 miners and the black lung disease that so many of
12 them experience and die from, and the appearance
13 of the lung after the autopsy, and how completely
14 disgusting it looks, but it is not something that
15 you want any of your children, let alone yourself,
16 to have to experience.

17 And the very idea that this, what's
18 called an E-something-I, or the study they did,
19 the idea that that covered all the conditions is
20 ludicrous because I'm certain that it had not
21 included what happens after the rail car goes by
22 and dumps its load of dust, wherever it's going
23 to, and subsequent cars go by and dump their load
24 of dust, I'm sure it's going to collect -- to what
25 degree I don't have any idea, but the point being

1 is that whatever is collected will probably remain
2 there until the effects on the climate that
3 burning that coal has to the degree that it
4 exacerbates the climate changing and the wind
5 storms, for lack of a better way to put it, that
6 normally occur, occur more often and to a greater
7 degree, that is with respect to the hemisphere,
8 for lack of a better term. I can't even think of
9 it.

10 But, anyway, it's like -- it's like a
11 fully forward-biased wound DC motor. It's a fully
12 forward biased -- you hook it up to a power
13 source, and it begins spinning. And as long as
14 you keep it hooked up to the power source it just
15 continues to build more and more speed and more
16 and more speed until finally it flies apart.
17 That's the reason that they have what they call a
18 shunt winding in it, to keep it from doing that.
19 Okay?

20 Well that's the way that the climate is
21 going to be affected. And so the wind is going to
22 pick up all that dust and blow it all over this
23 town. All over everything. Especially from the
24 terminal, where it's all collected in huge mounds.
25 Okay. So that's my thing.

1 Are we as citizens of the world looking
2 toward the future to regress or progress? Going
3 with coal is going backwards. Okay? We need to
4 go forward, period.

5 SPEAKER 5: A team of scientists led by
6 Dr. Dan Jaffe, professor of Atmospheric and
7 Environmental Chemistry at the University of
8 Washington, conducted a study in the Columbia
9 River Gorge in the summer of 2014, released
10 November 3, 2015.

11 This study, titled "Diesel Particulate
12 Matter and Coal Dust from Trains in the Columbia
13 River Gorge, Washington State, USA," concluded the
14 passage of a diesel-powered coal train, on
15 average, emits nearly double the respirable, going
16 into the lungs, particulates as does a diesel
17 powered freight train and a coal train's emissions
18 are half diesel and half coal dust.

19 When a coal train is seen with coal dust
20 coming off, this dust is larger in size than the
21 respirable particulates and is filtered by the
22 nose and mucus; the most dangerous particles can't
23 be seen.

24 BNSF says the surfactants put on the coal
25 plus modified loading chutes can reduce the coal

1 dust coming off the coal train cars up to 85
2 percent when they leave the Powder River Basin.
3 But by the time the coal goes through the Gorge,
4 up to three percent of the coal has been lost in
5 transit, about 500 pounds for each car.

6 Additional studies have found that coal
7 dust contains arsenic, lead, mercury and
8 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, PAHs, which
9 severely affect fish, including salmon. ATSDR,
10 the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease
11 Registry, part of the Centers for Disease Control,
12 says, "Studies of people show that individuals
13 exposed by breathing or skin contact for long
14 periods to mixtures that contain PAHs and other
15 compounds can also develop cancer."

16 Why expose our fish and our neighbors to
17 much more of these poisons?

18 SPEAKER 6: Diana Gordon. I'm from
19 Washougal in the Columbia River Gorge. It is a
20 smaller city along the railroad tracks between
21 foothills and the Columbia River. We have
22 Pendleton Woolen Mills and a lot of small
23 businesses located on both sides of the tracks
24 and, of course, our downtown with the City Hall,
25 library, senior center, and a couple of parks.

1 Just across the road from the tracks
2 there is an elementary school, a middle school,
3 and the school district offices. Other schools
4 and parks are nearby.

5 At full build-out, we can expect 16 coal
6 trains a day. They will clog our five at-grade
7 crossings, release visible amounts of coal dust on
8 windy days, and impede access to our businesses.
9 This terminal, especially if others are built as
10 well, will convert the Columbia River Gorge and
11 areas next to the rail line all the way back to
12 Wyoming into a fossil fuel corridor.

13 This will affect the quality of life, and
14 especially important to home owners, the property
15 values of thousands of people. There is no way to
16 mitigate this effect.

17 I looked at two interesting studies about
18 the effects of increased coal train traffic on
19 property values in the Puget Sound area for the
20 Gateway Pacific Terminal in Cherry Point. One was
21 by the Puget Sound area for the Gateway Pacific
22 Terminal in Cherry Point. One was by the Puget
23 Sound Regional Council and one by a real estate
24 appraisal firm in Seattle, The Eastman Company.
25 Both acknowledged a negative effect on property

1 values easily up to five percent. Even a two to
2 three percent loss of value here in Southwest
3 Washington would erode the value of our homes as
4 well as revenue for state and local governments.

5 As I understand it, the Department of
6 Ecology is under court order in a Children's
7 Justice lawsuit to craft an emissions reduction
8 rule to combat climate change by the end of 2016.
9 Rejecting this coal terminal would be a great
10 place to start and thousands of home and business
11 owners would breathe more easily tonight.

12 SPEAKER 7: I just want to go on record
13 that I support the no action alternative to this
14 plan. I believe that the additional trains that
15 will be coming through on the rail are going to be
16 detrimental to especially people in the Highland
17 area, which are already people that are coping
18 with difficult situations, and that will make
19 their living even more difficult.

20 I also don't want the noise that is
21 associated with the train traffic. I don't want
22 coal dust that -- not just from moving trains but
23 from the piles of coal that will be in the storage
24 facility, which will impact the health of the
25 people around there it will impact the water

1 quality.

2 I work in the health field, and the
3 health community is very important to me. At this
4 point Cowlitz County already has one of the worst
5 air qualities in the state, and having a coal
6 terminal will only make that worse.

7 And I could go on and on. But, anyway, I
8 don't want the coal terminal.

9 SPEAKER 8: My name is Al Wilson. I
10 started working in this area back in 1975. I've
11 lived here in the area since 1988.

12 There was jobs enough for two and three
13 shifts of work, and 10, 15 mills down here in the
14 area. And all kinds of exports, of course import
15 business, and lots of opportunity in this
16 community. One of the reasons why I came here.

17 Today I see two and three families living
18 in small houses because they don't have jobs, they
19 can't afford the rent. And the basic part of it
20 is, is jobs have been taken away because of the
21 EPA, because of the nature conservancy, the fish
22 control, the consumer activists, high taxes, all
23 kinds of limitations and control. Too many people
24 are still in the attitude here of what's mine I
25 don't want to share with anybody else.

1 We have four million people come of age
2 every year in the United States. We need jobs.
3 It's not just here, it's everywhere. We need to
4 have opportunities for these people so that they
5 can have their own families being taken care of.

6 One of the big problems we have today is
7 they're saying no coal. Okay, but they're also
8 saying that we can do better. How's that?

9 Wind control and solar has been given so
10 much money to get started and then they can't make
11 it a business model that pays for itself. And of
12 course they make our PUD pay extra money for it
13 and they've passed laws so that we have to buy the
14 product from them. And that just then ups our
15 costs to everybody else. So not only did we give
16 them money to get started, we're subsidizing them,
17 and then individuals in our own homes have to pay
18 the extra higher bills.

19 You know, building a house in the Gorge
20 is practically impossible to be able to do. But
21 we can put up windmills and we can put up solar
22 stuff. Now where is the justification in that?
23 We need to be able to produce.

24 The challenges are, you know, just of
25 expanding exponentially. We have 19 billion

1 dollars in debt. We still import more things than
2 we export. We have 95 million people that are out
3 of work, if they can get a decent job. And right
4 here in Cowlitz County it's close to 30 percent of
5 the people that would work if they could.

6 Now don't get me wrong, we've got drug
7 problems and we've got other problems, and I'm
8 aware of that. We've got people that can't pay
9 the deductible on the medical to get medical, so
10 once they get it for free. We've got challenges
11 that the only way we can make this right is to
12 have jobs.

13 If we've got a problem with dust, then
14 the EPA needs to do its job. They've got one of
15 the heaviest hammers there is in the marketplace
16 on businesses. They even control the amount of
17 rain that comes down and what we have to pay
18 because we get rained on on our particular piece
19 of property.

20 We are in a situation that the jobs that
21 some were talking about this afternoon are only
22 just a few. Well how about the thousands of
23 others associated, the railroad, the coal miners,
24 the associated jobs that come from being able to
25 have the workers putting stuff together and

1 everything. I'm a small business guy, I have seen
2 incomes and small businesses drop tremendously
3 because there's not the associated income to go
4 with it.

5 We need Millennium, we need a lot of
6 other companies to expand in this particular area,
7 and quit saying we can't just because there's some
8 kind of a spotted owl or a guppy fish or a bird
9 that may not be able to, gee, I think I can just
10 go on down the street someplace else. We need to
11 have jobs. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER 9: In 2012, in Pioneer Square in
13 Portland, Oregon, Robert Kennedy, Jr. presided.
14 He told of all the problems that they'd had on the
15 East Coast -- and I come from the East Coast
16 also -- all the problems that they were having
17 with pollution, everything on the East Coast. I
18 come from New York, so, anyway.

19 And at this rally they had a Chinese
20 representative -- I don't remember his name, but
21 he stated very emphatically that China doesn't
22 even want more coal. This is in 2012, and even
23 probably before that.

24 Okay? It's making people sick, it's
25 killing people there from pollution, their lives

1 are being ruined. So the Chinese have been
2 backing off from coal. You know, they still need
3 some of it, but in China -- there's actually a
4 documentary on this. You know how it gets gray
5 here in Washington? Like a gray day? That's
6 their best day. Nicest day they'll ever have.
7 And then it goes to almost black. People stay
8 inside their homes. They have air conditioning
9 on. They go from their homes to their cars where
10 their cars have air conditioning. And, you know,
11 they don't even go outside unless they have a
12 special mask on.

13 You know, a little girl spoke and she had
14 some respiratory disease. The coal is also
15 pushing forward climate change. You know, every
16 so many years we're getting like a couple degrees
17 higher, which means it's melting the ice caps.

18 And what that's doing is eventually we're
19 not going to have two coasts, the East and the
20 West Coast because they're all going to be
21 inundated.

22 And also temperatures are rising also.
23 So, you know, I don't know how many years it is, I
24 don't remember exactly, but eventually it will be
25 too hot for the climate because of it.

1 I'm an RN, and I have seen patients with
2 compromised respiratory systems, they have asthma,
3 allergies, COPD. People have diabetes, and any
4 other kind of medical problems. Also, you know,
5 breathing in polluted air makes it even worse.
6 You know, this is for all adults, but especially
7 young people. Their lungs and their organs aren't
8 fully developed. So any pollution that they
9 breathe in makes it even worse for them.

10 And then the elderly people whose systems
11 are already weakened by the aging process will
12 have all of their illness exacerbated by bringing
13 in toxic air from coal that for a few things
14 contains arsenic, cadmium, mercury, and other
15 toxic pollutants.

16 Now, some people have said that, well,
17 the coal is just a nuisance. You can see it all
18 over. People sweep it up off the streets, their
19 sidewalks, their cars. This is in Kelso. I've
20 been to people's houses who have had this. And
21 what's even worse is there's particles that you
22 can't see, they're not visible to the naked eye.
23 And I believe they're 2.5 microns. Those are
24 particles that they go through your lungs and into
25 your body organs where they do irreversible

1 damage.

2 All right. I've spoken with someone from
3 Millennium and had mentioned something about that
4 there were people, you know, in Kelso who have
5 problems with coal from the tracks and everything
6 like that. So I haven't heard about that. So
7 what does it really mean? I haven't heard of
8 that. You know, every single person is allowed to
9 talk. And they say that everything is clean, coal
10 dust is just a nuisance.

11 So when they come back and forth they're
12 going to have 16 cars a day going in and going
13 out. And even the ones without the coal in them
14 are going to be, you know, all the dust left in
15 it. So that will still be a problem. It gets on
16 the railroad tracks, it gets in the Columbia
17 River, kills the fish. Gets into, like Mercury.
18 You know, how long haven't we been able to eat
19 tuna because it has mercury in it? So let's just
20 add to that problem.

21 Supposedly there's surfactants to cover
22 the coal. But they didn't even say what the
23 surfactant is made out of. And I read something
24 the other day, and, again, I'm really sorry, I
25 don't remember the source, but something that the

1 surfactant gives off is even damaging. But the
2 surfactant can move around, you know, so it's not
3 even -- you put it on and the train and goes for
4 miles and miles and miles and rumbles and
5 everything. You know, it's not that strong a
6 substance to even stay on even if it was good.

7 The other thing is if fossil fuels are
8 not kept in the ground, global warming will
9 continue, and, as I said before, the oceans will
10 continue to rise until the majority of the people
11 have no place to go. And if they're not already
12 dying or dead from the climate getting hotter and
13 hotter, I vote for the no action alternative.

14 SPEAKER 10: I have lived in Castle Rock
15 for nearly 26 years. I worked over 20 years at a
16 pediatric clinic, and one of the major problems we
17 treated there was asthma. There is no need for a
18 coal terminal in Cowlitz County, and one of the
19 last things we need is something that will affect
20 our health the way coal dust and increased diesel
21 fumes will do.

22 The Columbia River runs through the heart
23 and soul of this community and of many others. We
24 need to do nothing further to endanger the health
25 of the river or of our citizens.

1 Lastly, this is not just a local issue.
2 This ill-conceived project would endanger every
3 living thing along the entire route from Montana
4 and Wyoming all the way to China.

5 The burning of the coal at its
6 destination would endanger the entire planet.
7 Please do not approve this terminal.

8 SPEAKER 11: My name is Cheri Mann, and
9 I'm here to request that there be an -- here to
10 support the no action option.

11 I graduated from Mark Morris in 1962. My
12 family moved here from Portland in 1953. I grew
13 up here on the banks of the Columbia River. My
14 father took me out fishing when I was five, I
15 water skied when I was -- all during high school.
16 We had parties on the Columbia River. The
17 Columbia River for our family was very sacred, as
18 it is with the native populations.

19 My father was a blue collar worker, he
20 was an ironworker. I understand about jobs.
21 Everyday growing up, when we sat down at the
22 dinner table, my father said, we give thanks to
23 the unions for my job, that we have, that I can
24 bring home a decent wage. I totally understand
25 that.

1 When my father later in life worked at
2 Trojan, I went to him, because then I was an
3 environmentalist, I could really look at the full
4 picture. And I went to him and I said, Daddy,
5 give that job up. It's going nowhere. It's just
6 not a good thing to be involved with. And he
7 said, Honey, it's my job.

8 And look where Trojan is today.

9 The coal industry is on the way out. And
10 that's so evident. It's just so evident with
11 every bit of information out there. Why is it
12 dying? It's dying because we need to shift to new
13 technology and get away. Coal does belong in the
14 ground.

15 The other factor is the enormous health
16 care costs for even having coal dust around. Coal
17 has devastating health consequences.

18 I would like to talk a little bit about
19 my experience, which does sort of make me tearful.
20 Last August I was lucky enough to travel with the
21 Lummi Nation as they brought their totem pole down
22 along the Columbia River where they visited all
23 the native groups along the Columbia River on
24 their way to deliver the totem pole, Jewell James
25 and the group. And I was only one of two

1 non-native people, people who were allowed to go
2 along.

3 So I sat in with the native populations
4 all the way along. And it was a privilege and it
5 was something that I wish everybody could do. It
6 rose my awareness so deeply to a level of trying
7 to completely understand the native people and
8 what they have given up and what they are still
9 fighting for.

10 Their love of land is probably in the
11 end, quite honestly might save the rest of the
12 White population here. The Columbia River is
13 sacred to all of those native peoples along there.

14 I watched the trains go up the Columbia
15 on our way to Montana, and it was an eery feeling
16 to look over and to see and to think that hundreds
17 and hundreds of additional trains would be
18 traveling through there. It's just inconceivable
19 that that could happen.

20 I want to talk a little bit about my
21 experience. I was on the Columbia River by
22 Boardman, and we were waiting -- the next day the
23 Yakima Nation was going to come down, and they had
24 offered to make lunch for the traveling group on
25 their way to Montana, the Lummi Nation.

1 And so I walk out, having grown up on the
2 Columbia River -- and I'm really sorry, I just had
3 been away so long -- looking at the Columbia and
4 walking out into it, and I thought it was really
5 pretty warm, and I looked over my shoulder and
6 Oregon is on fire. There is smoke, thick smoke
7 billowing around, and the hot sun was coming down.
8 This was the very end of August last year.

9 And I walked out into the Columbia and I
10 turned around to the one scientist with the Lummi
11 Nation, and I said to him, this really feels like
12 warm water, how warm do you think it is? And he
13 said, well, I'm pretty sure it's about 70. And I
14 said, 70? And I said, well, can salmon spawn?
15 And he said, well, they have difficulty now
16 probably. At 72 they will not spawn. I
17 understand that it takes a lot of hot air and
18 climate change to go raise the Columbia to that
19 kind of level, but we're at the -- we're just --
20 we're there. We're there.

21 And with all the smoke, the next day the
22 Lummi Nation did come down. And it was such a sad
23 thing to hear them talk about Mt. Adams and their
24 land on fire. So right there, on the Columbia
25 River, forest fires in both directions, thick

1 smoke, and we're going to add coal dust to all of
2 that and to continue heating up that precious
3 area?

4 I also want to talk about salmon for a
5 minute. So, I'm not going to go into health
6 because there are too many experts to say -- to
7 tell that part of the story. The salmon. I
8 believe that the salmon are the most important
9 commodity in the Pacific Northwest. For our
10 salish sea, for the Columbia River, for all the
11 tributaries, for everything for our native
12 peoples, for the millions and millions of dollars
13 that rely upon salmon and all the species and all
14 the animals that go along with it. If the salmon
15 fail, the consequences are like dominoes and we
16 might as well -- I just don't know what we'll do.
17 It's just inconceivable.

18 Yes, we need jobs. I understand those
19 people standing out there. I understand companies
20 that want to make money. I understand all that.
21 And I do support it. Dads have to work, mom's
22 have to work. But not on the backs of an
23 environmental, a health crisis, the native
24 peoples, not on the backs of so many different
25 entities.

1 And for those reasons I support a no
2 action. It to me is the only way to go. And I
3 will fight to maintain the Columbia River, at
4 least that it doesn't completely collapse as an
5 eco system.

6 SPEAKER 12: My name is David Kunz, and
7 I'm with Tidewater Barge Lines. I would like to
8 read a statement on behalf of Tidewater's
9 management team.

10 I am here today to voice Tidewater's
11 support for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminal
12 facility in Longview that is currently undergoing
13 environmental review.

14 Tidewater is a marine transportation, a
15 terminal company based in Vancouver, Washington.
16 We have 300 employees, have been in business since
17 1932, to have a fleet of boats, barges, and marine
18 terminals that operate on the Columbia River.

19 Tidewater is committed to environmental
20 stewardship in the Pacific Northwest and its
21 waterways. That being said, we have reviewed the
22 DEIS and support the conclusion that the
23 Millennium Bulk Terminal can be constructed and
24 operated in a safe and responsible manner.

25 We did not identify any major cumulative

1 impacts from the project. Most impacts noted in
2 the Draft EIS are either negligible or minor and
3 can be mitigated. There are a few potential major
4 impacts that have very low probability of
5 occurring and planning prevention response and
6 mitigation activities can reduce or eliminate
7 these impacts.

8 We now wanted to comment on the economic
9 impacts of the project. Tidewater is one of many
10 companies that account for nearly 40 percent of
11 all Washington jobs in the state that are tied to
12 trade.

13 Millennium Terminal will positively
14 impact Washington for years to come. Almost
15 immediately the project will create as many as
16 2600 direct and indirect jobs during construction
17 with a total of 300 full-time direct and indirect
18 jobs generated once complete.

19 In conclusion, the proposed Millennium
20 Bulk Terminal Project offers an opportunity to
21 expand our ports, ensure that jobs are created and
22 preserved, stimulate growth in the local and
23 regional economy, and provide our state with a
24 world class project that will ensure that
25 environmental standards are maintained.

1 Higher standards of living and long-term
2 security for the families of Washington are sure
3 to accompany this project. Thank you for the
4 consideration and the opportunity to comment on
5 this important matter.

6 SPEAKER 13: My name is Josh Johnson. I
7 live in Longview, Washington, and I work locally
8 as an environmental engineer.

9 Longview is almost completely surrounded
10 by dikes. They were built at great expense to our
11 founding father. The levees and the drainage
12 canal were the single greatest expense he had.
13 More than capital improvements for the city, more
14 than property acquisition.

15 I'm concerned that this beautiful city
16 might host the largest fossil fuel export facility
17 on the West Coast. How easy might it be to get
18 funding to raise our levees if we are so complicit
19 in the problem.

20 The climate you and I recognize today is
21 gone. The impacts of the greenhouse effect added
22 this year will begin to affect the climate for
23 years to come, and it's irreversible and it's
24 accelerating.

25 The world is transitioning deliberately

1 and quickly away from fossil fuels. The question
2 is, how fast can we do it? Whichever nation does
3 it best first wins the jackpot as far as energy
4 exports -- you know, green energy exports and
5 technology and cost of goods, cost of services.
6 America needs to be that country starting today.
7 You have the power.

8 SPEAKER 14: My name is Ingrid Ford, I'm
9 from Washougal, Washington, Clark County. I'm a
10 registered nurse. Many other health professionals
11 today have spoken for the need of more research
12 about the health impacts that the coal and coal
13 trains will have on our communities.

14 The coal trains pass through my community
15 by the schools and the playgrounds and homes of
16 our friends and our families and our neighbors.
17 As nurses and health professionals, we see the
18 people that are labeled as statistics or people
19 impacted.

20 Last week one of my patients was in for
21 lung cancer diagnosis and had coal exposure, and
22 his brother died of black lung. These are not
23 trivial things, and these people's lives have been
24 affected by the coal.

25 We speak about the importance of jobs,

1 but I know that parents are not thinking about
2 jobs when their children are suffering asthma
3 attacks and may be delayed by the trains coming
4 through to get to the hospital. They're concerned
5 about their families and their children and their
6 lives and the future.

7 SPEAKER 15: My name is Kelly Caldwell.
8 I live in Portland, Oregon, and I have a
9 Bachelor's of Natural Resources from the
10 University of Michigan.

11 I'm concerned about the environmental
12 impacts. I'm reviewing the documents on impacts
13 of surface water and groundwater, and I'm very
14 concerned about -- I keep seeing reference to the
15 use of surfactants which are sprayed to reduce
16 coal dust. Nowhere have I seen details about the
17 impact of that product on the eco system. It's
18 seen as a good thing that will reduce dust, but it
19 is a toxic chemical in itself and needs to be
20 examined. That is a piece of information that is
21 not adequately covered in the EIS presently.

22 I also wanted to bring attention to the
23 comments in the greenhouse gas emission section of
24 the fact sheet. It suggest that one of the
25 proposed mitigations be to reduce or offset 50

1 percent of the increased greenhouse gas emissions.

2 Again, as far as I can tell that sounds
3 like a nice idea, but there is really not a clear
4 methodology in place how that would be. That
5 sounds like pipe dreams, sure, we should do that.
6 But there's really not a clear way that that will
7 happen. So that is an inadequate suggestion.
8 Nice idea but doesn't have legs.

9 I'm also very concerned about the
10 groundwater. I see that there is a plan
11 potentially to use deep groundwater as a way to
12 keep dust down. I'm concerned about the long-term
13 impacts. As that water is reduced, then also the
14 ecological effects over time as pollutants and
15 coal dust makes its way through the eco system
16 through the use of our groundwater and through
17 surface runoff.

18 I think these are just some of the
19 ecological issues that are at play, and I think
20 that costs to environment outweigh the financial
21 benefits, and it shouldn't move forward. Instead
22 we should look at investing in job sources and
23 energy sources that have a future for our planet
24 and for our folks.

25 We know that that coal is being phased

1 out, and so there shouldn't be a huge new
2 investment in a coal terminal that will
3 essentially export half of our 2014 levels of coal
4 export through one location. This project is not
5 in keeping with what our community and our planet
6 needs.

7 SPEAKER 16: Susi Hulbert, S-U-S-I,
8 H-U-L-B-E-R-T, Longview, Washington. And I am,
9 what did it say, please voting for the no action.
10 Actually, I don't want it here totally. It needs
11 to be cleaned up. We need to have good, clean,
12 not toxic land to attract somebody that has a good
13 viable business.

14 For all the physical problems of coal,
15 meaning mainly our health -- and actually the
16 health of the environment, rivers, land, air. We
17 just can't afford to get more problems. There are
18 enough problems already. So coal, if you really
19 read about coal you'll see, it is just not for us.
20 And we wouldn't be making any money off of it. We
21 would only be guinea pigs for maybe health studies
22 and see how bad our health will get. So I am
23 totally against it.

24 I am not against new jobs, but I think
25 that if we have a cleaned-up area we could attract

1 some business that wants that cleaned up area.
2 That has been free for a long time, free meaning
3 available, and nobody's wanted it. Because I
4 think if I were a business I wouldn't want to have
5 my business on top of a toxic landfill. And
6 putting another business of bad toxic things on
7 top of toxic land, does not -- you know, it's not
8 like a map, two negatives make a positive. It
9 doesn't work that way with the environment.

10 So I'm just so hoping -- we've been
11 trying a long time, and I think a lot of people
12 don't realize how important it is because we
13 can't -- only in the mass of people can we fight
14 against big money. And big money even impresses
15 people with no money, unfortunately.

16 So we just have to -- I don't know, I
17 think our -- the people that we trust to run the
18 City, to run the things, none of them really care
19 about the area. I think it's been bad for a long
20 time. I've lived here since 1970, and I'm very
21 disillusioned with people in power, where I would
22 think they would be thinking for the other people
23 and for the good, not for the money they can make
24 but for the good of the area.

25 And so now I'm doing this and I'm working

1 at trying to get people involved in cleaning up
2 the air, keeping it clean. I don't understand why
3 people even litter. I mean, I'm just totally for
4 the environment because that's all we have to give
5 to the future, from our children or our children's
6 children or somebody's else's children if we don't
7 have children.

8 So I sure hope that -- from what I've
9 heard, I've only heard a little bit about the IEP
10 (sic) as it's called, you know the statement, you
11 know, it's not that it's a just a little nuisance
12 kind of thing and that the coal isn't -- and I'm
13 thinking, have they not looked into it? You know,
14 I just don't understand.

15 So, it's like if somebody wanted to bring
16 something toxic and go over my land all the time,
17 I would say no. Even if they offered me a
18 thousand dollars every time they came through.
19 Because I can't clean the air with the thousand
20 dollars they give me.

21 And I look at, this is the same. All
22 these trains coming through a city, we have wind
23 every evening. And it's going to be the same, it
24 will be blowing into all the neighborhoods. And
25 it's not just us.

1 But I've taught in this area where it's
2 really bad, and I never realized it was so bad.
3 And then when I looked into it more then I
4 learned. But when I first started school, I knew
5 that the poorer people lived there but I didn't
6 realize how bad it really was. So, we need to do
7 it now before we get worse.

8 And I also have no faith in the coal
9 companies, because the big coal company just filed
10 bankruptcy. So all they have to do is get as much
11 as out of this as they can. And it's not going to
12 be much because the whole world is switching away
13 from fossil fuels. And then they'll just declare
14 bankruptcy and we'll be stuck with land with a
15 little bit more toxic land.

16 So, I guess that's more than you needed
17 to hear.

18 SPEAKER 17: You know, the policeman
19 for -- what are you doing?

20 I was talking all day long in the class.
21 That's it.

22 SPEAKER 18: Yeah, we're like against the
23 no coal stuff because my son has his Williams
24 Syndrome, to where he has breathing problems like
25 asthma. And also I have sleep apnea. And then

1 also it's bad for our family because the dust that
2 will be coming in with the coal trains. And it's
3 bad for the environment.

4 SPEAKER 17: And my friends, they'll
5 probably be doing stuff like that on me. They
6 jump on me and stuff like that. And they, like
7 (gesturing) like that.

8 SPEAKER 18: He's helpful. He's nine and
9 acts to the age of maybe five or four. She's
10 five.

11 SPEAKER 17: And there's more.

12 SPEAKER 18: See, my mom, she's got heart
13 issues. My dad -- step-dad has got a heart issue,
14 knee problems and COPD, respiratory infection.
15 It's bad for everybody, because of respiratory
16 problems, the lung problems. Everybody with -- I
17 don't know how to -- issues. Health issues. But
18 even healthy people can become ill, you know.

19 And the coal can be bad for your friends,
20 too.

21 Okay. Are you done?

22 SPEAKER 17: Yeah.

23 SPEAKER 18: Okay. I think we're done,
24 because we told her that we have lots of people in
25 our family that has health issues, and we say no

1 coal.

2 SPEAKER 19: I'm Darrel Whipple. 76439
3 Alston Mayger Road, Rainier, Oregon 97048.

4 My wife and I have lived at Alston,
5 between Rainier and Clatskanie, since 1970, and
6 raised our boys on our ten-acre farm there. I'm a
7 retired elementary teacher, and I now manage the
8 family tree farm near Clatskanie. I am an active
9 leader of Envision Columbia County.

10 Like all of us, I want the best future
11 for my kids and grandkids. So, we keep going
12 through these wrenching dramas forced upon us by
13 the wealthy fossil fuel industry dangling
14 badly-needed jobs and public revenue in our faces,
15 tempting us to sell out our future and forsake our
16 grandchildren's future on a livable planet.

17 Thankfully, we have the DEIS, which
18 addresses the many concerns about the Millennium
19 project with a fact-based approach. Well worth
20 careful reading.

21 I did note with disappointment that the
22 DEIS does not hold Millennium accountable for
23 mitigating or offsetting the combustion of its 20
24 years of coal export, only the emissions from
25 transport and daily operations.

1 The DEIS does tell us that the emissions
2 from burning all that coal at Asian destinations
3 amount to 90 million metric tons of Co2 up through
4 2038.

5 But somebody else is responsible for the
6 burning, it's out of our hands we say, not our
7 problem. We don't have to mitigate or offset all
8 that permanent degradation of our global
9 atmosphere, even though morally we are just as
10 responsible as the Japanese, Taiwanese, Chinese,
11 and South Koreans who will actually burn it.

12 Oh but if we don't ship them our low
13 sulphured coal, won't there be dirtier coal
14 elsewhere? That assumption is naive. The DEIS
15 correctly figures that putting our coal on the
16 Asian market will have the effect of lowering coal
17 prices in the Asian region, inducing further
18 demand for coal in general and incentivizing
19 decades more dependent on coal for electricity
20 generation instead of renewables.

21 Facilitating that debacle is not a smart
22 move on our part. Ninety million metric tons of
23 Co2 equivalent in the first 20 years, and I'm
24 guessing even more than 90 million in the
25 following 20 years, there being no ramp-up period

1 for those decades.

2 The DEIS cuts off the analysis at 20
3 years, but if we continue to breathe life into the
4 dying coal industry through projects such as this,
5 the harm to the climate will continue and worsen
6 with each decade as tipping points are reached and
7 feedback loops exacerbates the greenhouse effect.

8 Ninety million tons of Co2 equivalent is
9 about as much as a year's worth of Co2 emissions
10 from all sources in Washington, including
11 transportation and coal combustion.

12 Seems bizarre that the DEIS suggests that
13 Millennium should mitigate for only 2.8 percent of
14 that amount, and that only at a rate of 50
15 percent.

16 But there is also the assumption that
17 Millennium's coal will substitute in the Asian
18 market for coal sourced elsewhere, as if the other
19 coal will not be burned, or will be burned later
20 down the road. So we are wise to get in and
21 compete.

22 I submit that this sort of thinking is
23 haywire. It will result in every source
24 developing its supplies to the utmost, thereby
25 perpetuating a low-priced coal economy to the

1 detriment of the climate and people's health. I
2 think we have a moral obligation to not become
3 part of the coal economy and to urge the phase-out
4 of fossil fuels as we build a low carbon or no
5 carbon economy with efficiency and renewable.

6 For that reason I recommend the no action
7 alternative.

8 SPEAKER 20: Hello. My name is Carly
9 Stiverson from Portland, Oregon. Water is a
10 sacred part of life source for all life forms.
11 The health of the Columbia River and its watershed
12 is vital to maintaining thriving life systems from
13 multitudes of species. Contaminating this water
14 with coal dust will reduce the oxygen available to
15 fish, barnacles and larvae. These species are
16 vital for recreation, it's worst economy, and
17 subsistence fishing.

18 Water moves and changes, seeps into soil
19 and gets uptaken by plants and food we eat. Coal
20 dust from trains and from runoff will not just
21 stay in a mild radius of the coal site. The water
22 will take it wherever it flows.

23 Life systems are not stagnant. They are
24 moving and deeply connected and intertwined and
25 molded by these life systems. We are not separate

1 from nature. We are a vital part of it. It is an
2 incredible responsibility to take care of it and
3 thus take care of ourselves in all we cherish. I
4 reject the Millennium Coal Terminal in Longview.

5 SPEAKER 21: Hi. My name is Andrea Grace
6 Steig. I'm from Seattle, but Longview is my dad's
7 home town. My grandfather worked for the timber
8 industry his whole career and was safety engineer
9 for Weyerhaeuser. I wouldn't be his granddaughter
10 if I stood up for an unsafe industry.

11 It is unsafe for Longview. The noise and
12 unsightliness and health risks will keep down the
13 local economy and in an era in which Peabody
14 Energy and Arch Coal, the financial backer of this
15 project declares bankruptcy, we cannot trust
16 Millennium Bulk to cover maintenance and
17 healthcare.

18 It is an unsafe industry to the mining
19 and transport communities who are fighting
20 desperately to stop the project in their homelands
21 and to depend on us here to support them.

22 External costs and health concerns extend
23 over a long term, one that the Draft EIS does not
24 but should take into account. The effects of
25 climate change are currently being felt in

1 communities all over the world, but they're
2 fullest extent 20 years from now and 100 and 200
3 cannot be accurately calculated. For the
4 potential risks involved in this project, I advise
5 the no action alternative.

6 SPEAKER 22: My name is Cecilia Kessel.
7 I live in Vancouver. I live in a home that is 103
8 years old. I live in one of the oldest
9 neighborhoods in the city. And the city of
10 Vancouver is a very special place in a very
11 special location.

12 It is the fourth largest city in the
13 state, of course, and it is booming right now.
14 We're getting so many new businesses and
15 restaurants and pubs and things to do, it's just
16 really wonderful.

17 I live within walking distance from the
18 elementary school, the middle school, the high
19 school, and Clark College, two -- no, one theater,
20 that's right, the regional public library, various
21 restaurants, a few antique stores, many churches,
22 a few bars, and a pot shop.

23 This is an ideal place to live. Three
24 generations of Kessels live here in Vancouver, and
25 we do not want the quality of our lives to be

1 disrupted by a proposed coal terminal in Longview,
2 which will bring in 44 million tons of coal
3 annually only to be shipped to Asia and come
4 through the Columbia River Gorge through
5 Vancouver, to Longview, and sent out on ships to
6 be burned in Asia, and for that Co2 to come back
7 to this country.

8 We need to get beyond coal and oil. We
9 need to get beyond fossil fuel. This commission
10 needs to say no to the coal terminal in Longview.
11 We need to get on the right side of history. No
12 more fossil fuels to contaminate the earth and our
13 air.

14 SPEAKER 23: My name is Brad Sauer, and
15 it's spelled B-R-A-D, S-A-U-E-R, and I live at
16 4472 Highway 39, Forsyth, F-O-R-S-Y-T-H, Montana
17 59327.

18 What I wish to convey is that we had coal
19 mines and new railroads planned going through this
20 environmental review process in my neighborhood.
21 I also live near Colstrip, Montana, and there's
22 existing mines and coal-fired power plants there.
23 We've been impacted by them negatively for over
24 40 -- almost 40 years.

25 In the consideration of the new mines and

1 the new railroad, the Outerkirk Mine and the
2 Tongue River Railroad, we asked for consideration
3 in the down track impacts because the market for
4 that coal was Asia coming here to these ports that
5 are being considered.

6 We are keenly aware that we don't operate
7 in a vacuum, we don't live in a vacuum. The
8 impacts that would occur there would be spread
9 here by more rail traffic.

10 And my point in saying all this is that
11 while the Washington Department of Ecology has
12 done an excellent job of analysis in their EIS of
13 almost every conceivable impact, it stops at the
14 state line.

15 However, I just described other impacts
16 that will be coming should these mines go through
17 to the state.

18 So, the opening of the port here would
19 cause additional impacts where I live to land and
20 water and business and communities, financial,
21 social, and in other ways.

22 The point is that the cumulative effects
23 are larger than just this state. And I'm not
24 aware of a document that considers the larger
25 cumulative impacts.

1 I would ask the Washington Department of
2 Ecology to expand their horizons literally and
3 consider what their decision will do to the
4 communities and the land and the water where I
5 live, the businesses.

6 SPEAKER 24: My name is Sonya Norton. I
7 am from Vancouver. I've observed the number of
8 people in blue shirts from Millennium, and I would
9 like to point out that while there may be jobs for
10 most of them in the construction of the site, less
11 than ten percent of them will have jobs once it is
12 completed.

13 A year ago, a young man came forward to
14 say that he had had considerable difficulty
15 finding a job, though he was a certified, licensed
16 union plumber or steamfitter, or something of that
17 sort, and that he had only been able to put his
18 children to bed at home 100 nights of that
19 previous year.

20 I would like to point out to him and his
21 fellows that while he will be able to do that for
22 the next few years while the construction is
23 proceeding, he will once again be out in the field
24 looking for a job, possibly only having a hundred
25 nights a year with his family.

1 It would be better for him to take up an
2 occupation in the green energy field and then he
3 and his family can choose to live together
4 wherever they wish.

5 SPEAKER 25: My name is Katie Frei. I
6 live within two miles from the proposed coal
7 terminal. I worked as a registered nurse at St.
8 John Medical Center for 38 years. I raise an
9 organic garden and a small orchard.

10 I'm concerned about the coal dust that
11 contains arsenic, mercury, lead, chemicals that
12 have been long known to cause cancer and
13 neurological damage.

14 The dust is known to travel up to ten
15 miles, which means it could become a part of the
16 air my family breathes and the soil where we raise
17 our garden.

18 I read a few years ago in a Burlington
19 Northern website that some coal cars even lose up
20 to 500 pounds of dust during transport.

21 Although we are told that the cars will
22 be sprayed with surfactant to prevent this loss, a
23 recent peer reviewed article from the University
24 of Washington reported and documented evidence
25 that coal cars traveling through the Gorge are

1 still losing significant amounts of dust.

2 The surfactant, if it is really being
3 applied, isn't working in the strong winds of the
4 Gorge. Coal cars are heavy and the trains require
5 several diesel powered engines. Diesel fumes
6 contain particulate matter that penetrate deeply
7 into the lungs.

8 The pollution from diesel fumes is
9 associated with breast and lung cancer, asthma and
10 congenital heart, lung, and immune anomalies in
11 children.

12 In Longview these trains with their
13 polluting dust and fumes will pass within about
14 200 yards of the Highland residential district.
15 The Physicians for Social Responsibility in Oregon
16 and Washington have stated that this will impact
17 the health of our community, especially our
18 children, and they stand against the burning and
19 transport of coal.

20 I have never smoked, but in 2012 I was
21 diagnosed with Stage IV, inoperable, incurable
22 lung cancer. I am part of the growing number of
23 healthy non-smokers being diagnosed with this
24 disease.

25 The World Health Organization estimates

1 that 2.5 million deaths from lung cancer in the
2 world are caused from air pollution.

3 The citizens of our community already
4 experience proportionately higher levels of
5 lung-related disease than most in Washington
6 state. I am deeply concerned about the plans that
7 would worsen air quality and I would like a health
8 impact statement submitted with the EIS. Thank
9 you.

10 SPEAKER 26: Owen Johnson. This terminal
11 will bring Longview jobs, but how many jobs? A
12 hundred and twenty-six, 110 of which are already
13 taken. And what will this bring to future
14 generations of children?

15 SPEAKER 27: My name is Barb Westrick,
16 and I'm on the Longview School Board, vice
17 president, and I'm here to speak for myself but
18 because I care about our children and our
19 community.

20 I'm worried about the health effects that
21 it will have on the children, especially in the
22 Highland area. We have an elementary school
23 there, and it's close to the site. And I think
24 the impact of the train whistles and the noise
25 could be a problem with their learning, and some

1 of them may be a problem with their sleeping,
2 which will still be a problem with learning. And
3 I'm worried about that.

4 And, also, we have school gardens in all
5 of our schools now, and we're trying to teach our
6 children healthy living and healthy foods. And
7 coal is not healthy. And I think it sends the
8 wrong message.

9 And I'm also worried about if there's
10 accidents. There have been coal fires and that
11 puts toxic stuff in the air. What impact will we
12 have in addressing these issues with the schools
13 when we don't even have emergency preparedness
14 down for what to do in those kinds of cases. And
15 I don't want the kids to not be able to go out to
16 recess because the air is bad. This really is a
17 concern to me.

18 And I also do know that there is ocean
19 acidification that the previous governor did a big
20 study on it, and it was proven to be true. We
21 cannot deny the implications of climate change and
22 how this will affect the whole global world.

23 And, besides, the bottom line is the
24 market for coal is going out. By the time this
25 gets built, we probably won't -- it will probably

1 be gone in a little while anyway and then we'll be
2 back to where we were only we'll have this coal
3 plant to deal with.

4 And I'm really concerned about the
5 effects of the pile of coal by the Columbia River.
6 I do not believe that even if they spray it, when
7 we get 40 or 50-mile-an-hour winds that that will
8 not go into the Columbia River.

9 And we have spent millions of money on
10 salmon, helping our salmon. And we're going to
11 just be wasting all of that because of the effects
12 the coal will have on the fishing industry? So
13 that's another big concern. And I could just go
14 on and on, I have so many concerns about it. But
15 I just want to voice my opinion and say we need to
16 look at the big picture and not just 50 jobs. At
17 the end of this, 50 extra jobs is not going to
18 turn this whole community around for 50 jobs for
19 what it's going to cost us in the long run. So
20 thank you very much.

21 SPEAKER 28: My name is Mary Lyons. I
22 live here in Longview. I am president of LCSC,
23 Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community.

24 And I'm going to read my full testimony
25 that I missed.

1 In June of 2014, Wyoming Governor Matt
2 Mead a man who has declared I'm completely
3 unconvinced that climate change is man-made, came
4 to Washington to pressure Governor Insley to
5 support dirty coal terminals.

6 In a 2015 report entitled The Impact of
7 the Coal Economy on Wyoming, at the University of
8 Wyoming, Laramie, there are pages and pages of
9 concerns about the dismal future of the coal
10 industry. And the last recommendation in the
11 document is, more important will be whether
12 Wyoming can influence other states to implement
13 carbon control strategy least detrimental to
14 Wyoming's coal industry.

15 So it looks to me as our governor is
16 being played to benefit the coal industries of
17 Montana and Wyoming rather than the citizens of a
18 very green Washington he was elected to represent
19 and protect.

20 Do we now have a shared governance with
21 those two states which oversees conglomerates and
22 government benefiting at our expense?

23 One underlying question of this entire
24 coal controversy is, whose governor is he?

25 The coal dust to the terminal itself

1 coated not with surfactant but simple water is
2 predicted to layer neighboring homes, schools, and
3 play fields, and is described as a nuisance. At
4 what point in time does exposure to coal dust
5 transition from nuisance to deadly? After five
6 years? Ten? Fifteen?

7 Has the Department of Ecology looked at
8 any credible scientific studies that will answer
9 that question definitively? Whose Department of
10 Ecology are you?

11 Children will die from this incidental
12 nuisance and the diesel particulates delivered
13 along the route. It is our local children's
14 health I am particularly advocating for today.
15 But it is all children's health we will continue
16 to fight for as this battle rages on.

17 I declare on behalf of our LCSC members
18 that they are all our children and we urge a no
19 action alternative as the only safe and
20 compassionate choice for their lungs and lives.
21 Thank you.

22 I want to also agree with a couple of
23 other people who have testified about the cost of
24 the upgrades to the rail and if the rail has to be
25 upgraded in order to accommodate these trains.

1 Then what kind of time frame are we really looking
2 at before this terminal can open with those 18
3 trains a day, and whether or not Millennium is
4 going to pay for the upgrade of the rails, whether
5 or not Burlington is going to pay for the upgrade
6 of the rails, or are the taxpayers going to pay
7 for the upgrade? And when will it happen and how
8 will it fit in to the opening of this terminal?
9 Thanks.

10 SPEAKER 29: My name is Rick Schmitt.
11 I've lived in Southwest Washington for 49 years.
12 I really, really care about the quality of life in
13 my community.

14 If this coal export facility is built, my
15 concern is that over time the coal will get into
16 the soil, air, and in our water, causing damage to
17 us physically, to our environment. We've seen
18 what happens in other areas of the country and
19 it's not very attractive. This is why I do not
20 believe we need a coal export facility in our
21 area, particularly the Longview-Kelso area.

22 I'm in support of a no action alternative
23 here, and this is why I do not support a facility
24 here. Thank you very much for taking my
25 testimony.

1 SPEAKER 30: Hi. My name John Kersting.
2 As a parent, 15 years special education teacher,
3 35-year environmental journalist on toxins,
4 community leader as the president of Olympia
5 Eagles, and community networker with hundreds of
6 individuals in my community of Olympia,
7 Washington, we believe we must go further to
8 ensure that our communities and world health is
9 protected.

10 Having been a life-long diver and
11 specialist in environmental issues, I must report
12 I see first hand the air, waters, and land world
13 wide are still dying a slow death.

14 The rationalizations by government and
15 industry that are continuing to mine, use, and
16 transport coal are economic and evolutionary
17 suicide. It is insulting to hear the coal
18 industry tell us the lack of complaints and
19 science are proving that the vast amounts of coal
20 dust do not harm us or the environment.

21 As a journalist and special education
22 teacher, I am well aware of a strong body of
23 evidence that harm comes from the number and
24 quantities involved in exposure to pollutants, and
25 that our bodies, especially of children, already

1 have alarming levels of toxins.

2 Many communities throughout America are
3 forced to accept the risks and damage that coal
4 and its waste materials present. Many don't know
5 the dangers and environmental damage through media
6 manipulation.

7 In 2016, many of us are completely fed up
8 with the bullying of oil, gas, and coal companies,
9 passive government agencies, and corrupt officials
10 whose loyalties lies not with citizens but with
11 corporations.

12 It is long past time to clearly protect
13 our own and future generation's health. We have
14 been watching heartbroken as a slow train wreck
15 continues in our environment, land, air, and water
16 where the use of fossil fuels has overwhelmed the
17 incredible animal, plant, fragile environment, and
18 native people's interest with flat out greed.

19 This is an unacceptable risk to the
20 incredible wealth of the Pacific Northwest's
21 treasured fisheries, land forms, and water.

22 A union man all my life, pitching us
23 crumbs, pitching brothers against brothers to send
24 our natural resources to a communist nation to
25 enslave their people, destroy their environment,

1 and send us second-rate goods defies common sense.

2 The coal industry needs to be held to the
3 same economic impact and environmental standards
4 as other major industries while our country
5 transitions to a clean energy economy. These
6 standards are essential to protect our communities
7 and reduce the climate disrupting pollution that
8 threatens our public health, wildlife, and the
9 natural resources upon which we all depend.

10 My relatives mostly live in Hegewisch, a
11 suburb of Chicago where huge amounts of tar, sand,
12 coke, ash residues are being piled on the Calumet
13 River, where our family spent decades restoring
14 health and access to wildlife and open use areas,
15 only to see the coke brothers and other energy
16 interests annihilate that area's environment anew.

17 My brother lives on the north side of
18 Montana where he renovated an entire neighborhood
19 area with the affordable housing, restored
20 numerous small businesses, and provided a
21 renaissance of to an obliterated neighborhood. He
22 and I are furious that the nearby railroad has
23 horrendous environmental practices.

24 These include allowing poorly running
25 diesel engines pouring toxins into the air to run

1 for days, numerous idling engines habitually
2 disturbing and polluting the neighborhood, people,
3 and of course spilling regular amounts of coal and
4 coal ash into the area.

5 My brother Mark and I ask what the hell
6 has the government done and the industries done
7 that they regulate for us and our families? It is
8 your duty to take aggressive action to end coal
9 extraction and transportation services. You
10 should be held liable for the associated costs and
11 building higher safety standards reflecting our
12 present knowledge.

13 It is crucial to immediately phase out
14 dirty fuels that have never well served our
15 nation, particularly children, the elderly, or
16 those in fragile health. Thank you.

17 SPEAKER 31: I'm Charlotte Persons, and I
18 have lived in the Longview-Kelso area for 24
19 years. I'm here to represent Willapa Hills
20 Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon
21 Society.

22 For over 40 years we have been protecting
23 habitat for both humans and wildlife in Southwest
24 Washington and across the river in Oregon, from
25 Woodland down to Astoria. Most of our members,

1 however, live in the Longview-Kelso area.

2 Willapa Audubon Society will submit
3 written comments that analyze the data, science,
4 and modeling presented in the Draft Environmental
5 Impact Statement.

6 Our concerns about the inadequate data
7 and analysis, and especially inadequate mitigation
8 proposed is why we are urging the no action
9 alternative in the DEIS.

10 We have concerns about the DEIS but today
11 I will focus on fish in the Columbia River. Fish
12 are an integral part of the ecology of the river,
13 as well as part of our historical and cultural
14 connection to all of our ecology in our region.

15 The DEIS states that coal dust from the
16 Millennium Terminal Project will not affect
17 negatively the fish in the Columbia River.
18 However, the DEIS bases their conclusion on a
19 review of studies of the physical and chemical
20 effects of coal dust on marine organisms by Ahrens
21 and Morrissey in 2005. This is an inaccurate
22 interpretation of that Ahrens and Morrissey study.
23 They conclude that the studies are not just sparse
24 but inadequate. They call for more scientific
25 studies of the effect of coal dust on marine

1 environments.

2 Willapa Audubon Society has also asked
3 for more studies about these effects in our
4 comments for the scope of this Draft Environmental
5 Impact Statement in 2013. We call for them again.

6 And the final DEIS should not be issued
7 until third-party investigators produce clear
8 evidence of the true effects of coal dust on fish
9 and other marine organisms.

10 While the Draft Environmental Impact
11 Statement states that there are no effects from
12 coal dust, it does say that the cumulative effect
13 of all the new traffic on the river, 27 percent
14 which will be from the Millennium Project, will be
15 detrimental to the tribes' ability to fish because
16 of the negative effects of so many vessels of such
17 huge size.

18 However, the DEIS does not suggest any
19 mitigation for this loss. This loss will not be
20 just for the tribes' access to fish but to the
21 fish themselves which benefit commercial and
22 recreation fishing, and all of us in this region,
23 as they are integral to all ecology.

24 Another problem in the DEIS is fish
25 stranding, especially of juvenile Chinook salmon.

1 The DEIS says that this will not be a problem on
2 the closest beach at Barlow, although the studies
3 say that it will -- that's where most fish in our
4 area are stranded -- because the ships will be
5 slowing down. The DEIS says that the federal
6 government will regulate shipping.

7 We should not permit this project until
8 the federal regulations for the fish -- for the
9 ships along the river state that ships should slow
10 down and avoid these beaches where there's more
11 likely to be fish stranding, and also that they
12 should have this traffic at high tides, when
13 there's less possibility of stranding fish.

14 Finally, one of the important aspects of
15 the DEIS is proposed mitigation for greenhouse gas
16 emissions from burning the coal in Asia.

17 There are many problems with the modeling
18 that is created for the DEIS. But the main thing
19 is that the factors are many of them based on
20 political processes that cannot be foreseen.

21 For example, the DEIS model that's chosen
22 based on the 2015 regulations says that it may not
23 ever be implemented. That scenario may never be
24 implemented because we are unable to control new
25 federal administrations -- or predict new federal

1 administrations that may not ever implement these
2 plans because they do not believe in the reality
3 of the global climate change or wish to slow down
4 the implementation, or simply wish to protect us
5 in this interest.

6 There are so many factors that cannot be
7 predicted in these models that vary wildly in
8 their results, and we should not use them as a way
9 of creating a mitigation plan.

10 On the other hand, greenhouse gas
11 emissions already are affecting fish in our
12 estuaries in the Columbia River because of the
13 lack of, the lessening of glaciers, the predicted
14 impacts on rain patterns which will create less
15 snow pack and less water to go over the dams and
16 keep fish alive. All of those things are not
17 mentioned in the DEIS. These effects are just as
18 real as many other effects on people from the
19 greenhouse gases, and they are in no way --
20 there's no place in the DEIS where those kinds of
21 mitigations are proposed.

22 SPEAKER 32: Liane Hernstadt, L-I-A-N-E,
23 H-E-R-N-S-T-A-D-T, and I live in Camas,
24 Washington, right close to the railway tracks.
25 And this will affect our community very much,

1 having 16 new trains a day, the massive increase
2 of coal dust in the air full of toxic lead,
3 mercury, and arsenic and other really bad toxins,
4 the effect of the trains blocking level crossing
5 in my area. Not just for people who live on the
6 other side of the crossings but for people who
7 want to actually go to the Columbia River. It
8 won't be possible much of the day.

9 And I worry about the people, my
10 neighbors who live on the other side of the tracks
11 who may need emergency services, who may even want
12 to shop and not be able to get across the track
13 for possibly hours at a time.

14 I work right next to the railway line in
15 Portland, and I have had to sit there and wait for
16 an hour or more for trains that are stopped on the
17 tracks. And we don't have as many trains going
18 through there as we're going to have right where I
19 live.

20 I'm also really concerned that the
21 beautiful grapes I grow in my yard, the apples I
22 grow, that they're going to be covered with
23 arsenic, lead, and mercury, and other toxins from
24 the coal dust. That the water we drink is going
25 to be polluted with it as it works its way into

1 the aquifers. That the Columbia River is going to
2 be full of it. This is a really terrible idea.

3 I also am concerned about Los Angeles,
4 New York, all of our coastal communities around
5 the world because of climate change. We've lost
6 three quarters of the floating summer sea ice in
7 the arctic in only 30 years. And not only are the
8 polar bears going to have suffered, but my brother
9 already lost half of his apartment because of
10 sanding. And this is only going to get worse, not
11 better, unless we stop burning fossil fuels and
12 keep the coal in the ground.

13 This is a really short-sided terrible
14 plan, and I want them to say no to this coal
15 terminal.

16 SPEAKER 33: Hi. My name is Jessica
17 Hernstadt. And I have pretty much completed my
18 degree in chemistry, with an emphasis on
19 environmental chemistry. And when we moved here,
20 which was -- I've been here for five years, but my
21 family followed me.

22 Anyway, when we moved here I borrowed a
23 particulate meter which counts particulates by
24 their size gradation. And in doing so I had done
25 some research on the effects of different size

1 particulates. And I went around near the various
2 highways and was like, okay, this house is too
3 close to this highway. The air that we breathe is
4 not filterable for the vast majority of people,
5 and it's not filterable for us unless for some
6 reason you manage to, you know, have a whole house
7 air filtration system that has HEPA filters and
8 thousands and thousands of dollars.

9 And the damages by these particulates in
10 and of themselves, not counting, you know, the
11 chemicals which are hooked onto to them but simply
12 the size of the particulates is an intensive
13 cumulative damage.

14 Every single breath someone takes of a
15 super ultra fine particulate laid in the air is
16 doing them damage. There is no minimal safe
17 level. The guidelines are just, you know, is this
18 really likely to seriously increase your risks
19 over the next, say, the next 40 years or so.

20 But there is no minimal safe level.
21 Every breath does harm. And the introduction of
22 this coal terminal and the rail lines will
23 significantly increase particulate exposure for
24 populations along the entire route, and that is
25 kind of an unconscionable level of harm to do to

1 these communities and future generations.

2 On the other side of the particulates is
3 what they're made of and the resultant having
4 metal pollution, which is not just accumulative
5 but bioaccumulative. So as it gets into the
6 ground and runs into the rivers and goes into the
7 fish and all of the animals in there, it
8 concentrates as we go up the food chain to the
9 higher predators, including salmon and including
10 humans.

11 And this is the most generational effect,
12 where once we have, say, mercury, lead, and
13 arsenic in our bodies, we will pass it on to our
14 children, who are both passing it back into the
15 system through human waste fertilization
16 procedures that can be utilized, and through
17 that -- right up through the food chain itself,
18 but also they're inheriting pollution and
19 concealing it from the resources of the region.
20 This is not a long-term damage but this is a
21 short-term gain -- I mean, this is not a
22 short-term damage but it is a short-term gain.

23 So that need to be taken into
24 consideration, and not just this plan but all
25 future plans. This is an obsolete technology.

1 SPEAKER 34: Hello. My name is Kayla
2 Hernstadt. And I live in Camas, Washington, and I
3 often bike along the Columbia River to Vancouver,
4 and up the other direction as far as I can go.
5 And the bike trails, and also roads that are
6 connected to the different bike trails, because it
7 isn't continuous, follow directly along the rail
8 tracks as well.

9 And there are a lot of hills. And when
10 you're exercising that much and inhaling,
11 breathing that intensively, breathing all those
12 particulates have an even stronger effect. And
13 I'm trying to do nice exercise, out by the water
14 in a beautiful area, that would be ruined. I
15 won't be able to do if, like, there are 16 trains
16 per day. And, yeah, it just would not be pleasant
17 anymore.

18 So that's no to the rail terminal.

19 SPEAKER 35: My name is Gary, G-A-R-Y,
20 last name is Wallace, W-A-L-L-A-C-E. I'm a
21 resident of Kalama and a native of Kelso. I've
22 lived here all my life. Educated at Western
23 California State University.

24 And as a person that is aware of the
25 political process and the need for a tax base, the

1 idea that Millennium's coal dump -- it's not a
2 terminal, it's a dump -- is going to offset the
3 loss and property taxes throughout Cowlitz County
4 is absurd, period.

5 The number of jobs being proposed onsite
6 has changed from 30 to 130 to 250, and that
7 includes per Millennium's information, indirect as
8 well as direct jobs. The majority of those are
9 not new jobs, they're already existing jobs
10 indirectly that are receiving new contracts, i.e.,
11 office supplies, landscape maintenance, et.
12 cetera. So they aren't really new tax based jobs.

13 So the amount of money brought in versus
14 the amount of property loss in total in Cowlitz
15 County needs to be examined due to the detriment
16 that I perceive to the community. As such, there
17 should be no action taken on this proposal until
18 improved statistics and financial impact are
19 ascertained.

20 This is part of the, in my opinion,
21 Department of Ecology's business because it does
22 affect the quality of life, it does affect the
23 ability for Kalama, Woodland, lower Columbia
24 communities, Kelso, Longview, Clatskanie,
25 Cathlamet, Rainier, everybody down to Astoria and

1 Long Beach will be affected by the increased river
2 traffic as well as the increased railroad and
3 highway disruption.

4 So all of the traffic is going to be a
5 negative impact. So I've got property values that
6 are devalued and not offset by labor -- or wage
7 hour taxes, you know taxes; I've got environmental
8 disaster looking at us, and I've got
9 transportation that cuts off the well-being of the
10 community.

11 None of this has a positive impact to
12 anyone here local and I see this as a wrong step
13 to this community, for this community. It would
14 be something that I prefer the Department of
15 Ecology in their assessment not look at a snapshot
16 of a place and a time with nothing else
17 interrelated to the rest of the world because that
18 is not realistic. That is a very unhealthy
19 attitude, very unhealthy approach, because
20 everything we know now is interconnected.

21 Our knowledge base has increased to the
22 point where you can't look at something in a
23 snapshot in the middle of a process, you have to
24 go from extraction, transportation, handling,
25 shipping, and then the international impact on the

1 global environment as well as global international
2 relations.

3 At this point in time the ultimate of
4 worst scenarios is China, as war mongering nation
5 and a communist government is going to develop
6 coal base and other fuel bases to power up their
7 war in the Pacific, which is looking at us in
8 another ten years, according to my international
9 relations and Constitutional law degree.

10 So I hope that you take into
11 consideration more than a minute look per
12 subjective science from Millennium and look at
13 objective science proven by multiple years and
14 multiple decades from multiple countries --
15 throughout the United States as well as throughout
16 the world that are totally independent studies all
17 concluding the same thing, that coal is the killer
18 of all of us. It is the worst scenario.

19 And it's also contrary to national
20 political directives and international treaties
21 that we have signed, including one directive with
22 China a month ago.

23 In closing, second time around, I hope
24 you reconsider your position and don't look at
25 jobs as the only answer. That is not part of the

1 Department of Ecology's assessment. It is impact
2 on our quality of life and the well-being of our
3 water and air, which are apolitical.

4 So the politics of it and the fact that
5 you're supporting one private enterprise over the
6 public good is unacceptable. That would be
7 malfeasant in your performance of your duties.
8 You have one priority, and that is to meet the
9 will, follow the will, and meet the needs of the
10 people, not corporations. We owe no allegiance to
11 this company. It's a bankrupt ancient technology
12 that we need to go on to alternative energies and
13 get off the stepping stone to this power up so
14 far. We need to grow up.

15 SPEAKER 36: My name is Zubaida Ula,
16 Z-U-B-A-I-D-A, last name U-L-A. And I live down
17 the road in La Center, Washington.

18 And like everybody else I'm very busy. I
19 have three little kids and I work as a real estate
20 agent and I home school my kids. But my friend
21 Tracy told me about this issue of a coal terminal
22 here in Longview.

23 She sent me an email where she calculated
24 the coal dust, just the one little aspect of this,
25 and she calculated it all up, and the numbers are

1 really crazy.

2 Even using the BNSF's own numbers, that
3 they would spray surfactants and cut the coal dust
4 loss down by 85 percent, it still would be 645
5 tons of coal lost over 400 miles. Well that's if
6 surfactants aren't applied.

7 I'm sorry, it's a lot of numbers and it's
8 a lot of coal dust. And I think of these trains
9 going through the windy Columbia River Gorge and
10 the soil contamination, the watersheds, the
11 communities along the route, I think it's just a
12 terrible idea.

13 And I actually grew up in Wyoming, that's
14 my home state and that's where the coal comes
15 from, and this is not a sustainable industry. We
16 need to leave it behind. And Longview shouldn't
17 be a place where we build something for a dying
18 industry.

19 So I really hope that that does not
20 happen and that Longview says no to this coal
21 train. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER 37: Hi. I'm Marcia Denison.
23 I'll start by saying it first, Longview and
24 Rainier and surrounding areas -- not too far
25 surrounding, they have an extraordinarily high

1 rate of lung disease, including lung cancer in
2 young people who never smoked and a whole bunch of
3 diseases.

4 I mean, the people are dying in Rainier
5 from the pollution in Longview. There's a long
6 list of the diseases that they get.

7 The EIS says that people just over in
8 Rainier, less than a mile away, wouldn't be
9 impacted by all the carbon dust. And that is
10 absolutely a lie. Because I live ten miles south
11 of Rainier, up in the mountains, and there's so
12 much carbon that you don't need a filter to see
13 everything on the moon.

14 Carbon travels on the atmosphere -- oh,
15 no, this is something I wrote earlier today.

16 Longview has a community college that
17 trains people for jobs and places them in work
18 soon after school entry. If a person is
19 illiterate, LCCC will teach them to read, write,
20 and do math and anything else they want to learn,
21 and give them job training, provide specialized
22 training in many fields and put them to work.

23 The pollution is not needed to create and
24 find jobs. The terminal pollution to air and
25 water would harm people all the way to Portland.

1 There is too much carbon in the atmosphere now in
2 Portland, they're way past DEQ limits for many
3 pollutants.

4 It doesn't snow anymore at a thousand
5 feet. It hasn't for three years now. It used to
6 snow every year. And the last time it snowed
7 three years ago the particles -- the carbon
8 particles encrusted the ice and they didn't
9 resemble flakes at all except that they were
10 falling through the air.

11 The snow was blocked, it had thin layers
12 of black snow. Every time it would start snowing
13 it would leave a layer of black snow, and then
14 gray snow, and then white snow on top of that.
15 But the temperature has risen about 20 degrees
16 year round over there.

17 We don't need a huge amount of toxic
18 carbon dust to blow in the wind thousands of feet
19 into the atmosphere, blanketing the atmosphere to
20 seal in heat. The earth is warming at an alarming
21 rate already from carbon and greenhouse gases.

22 Poisoning everybody and giving people
23 lung cancer and making young people die at an
24 early age is no excuse for not seeking job
25 training. We don't owe them our lives, you know.

1 We have a right to a substantive life.
2 That means that it's not just a right to exist,
3 it's a right to not have lung disease, it's a
4 right to not die at an early age, it's a right to
5 not be poisoned by our neighbors. And a lot of
6 other little things that I've got lost today in --
7 my brain is just gone because I couldn't find
8 anything I was looking for.

9 SPEAKER 38: My name is John Stevenson.
10 I live in Portland. I'm from Pennsylvania.

11 The entire process of coal from mining as
12 a combustion is bad for the environment and bad
13 for communities.

14 I went to Penn State University and some
15 of my colleagues there will be spending their
16 entire careers trying to fix impacts of coal
17 mining, specifically acid mine drainage. And the
18 heavy metals that are given off by coal combustion
19 and the greenhouse gases we'll be dealing with for
20 centuries.

21 Yes, this project may produce dollars,
22 jobs on the short term, but how long will those
23 dollars last? Will they last centuries?

24 We've known that coal was a mistake for
25 150 years now. It's been around, you know, since

1 the 1800s. My grandfather was a coal mine
2 inspector and he died of lung cancer.

3 I focus mostly on the impacts of
4 combustion and mining, but transporting it outside
5 of the country is a key link in that chain. We
6 should make decisions for the 21st Century, not
7 1800s solution.

8 I saw an article just today from Forbes
9 or Fortune Magazine that China actually has more
10 coal than they need, and they have a five-year
11 plan to cut back on production. Why would we be
12 sending coal to them?

13 And the coal production in the United
14 States is down because the price is down. This is
15 not a forward-thinking conclusion.

16 SPEAKER 39: My name is Jeff Wilson. I
17 reside in Longview, Washington. My comments
18 regarding the EIS are that I think the scoping was
19 applied and overreached in its analysis as it
20 relates to the mode of transportation.

21 The rail traffic restriction and impacts
22 are coming anyway. Any time growth is going to
23 occur in the United States that involves
24 commodities, you can plan on increased rail
25 traffic.

1 I would propose that we focus on
2 mitigating rail traffic regardless of the cargoes
3 and commodities, especially because the EIS seemed
4 to far outreach the most precious cargo, and that
5 is people.

6 So the EIS was so critical of railroad
7 impacts, what about the railroad impact when the
8 cargo is people?

9 I'd love to have an Environmental Impact
10 Statement that would worry about increasing the
11 safety of Amtrak which carries the most precious
12 cargo called people.

13 As it relates to Millennium, I see no
14 reason to prohibit any company that is going to
15 operate in the confines of existing laws and
16 regulations. They should be permitted to operate
17 within those confines.

18 To pre-prejudice someone into an unlawful
19 act when what they're proposing to do is still in
20 fact legal, they must be allowed to proceed in
21 this process.

22 For those that are passionate and
23 convinced of their feelings against coal, I would
24 offer that the direction of opposition should be
25 instigated in another manner instead of directed

1 at Millennium Bulk Terminal's proposed project in
2 Longview.

3 In other words, if you want to legislate
4 global climate warming or climate changes, you
5 need to do that in another avenue rather than
6 prohibit a legally-operating business from
7 operating legally.

8 SPEAKER 40: My name is Tracy Ceravolo,
9 and I live in Ridgefield, Washington. In your
10 DEIS you clearly state the detrimental impacts of
11 burning fossil fuels globally. You confirm its
12 link to climate change.

13 Your DEIS states that average
14 temperatures in the U.S. are expected to increase
15 at a faster pace this century possibly by 11
16 degrees.

17 You are, by the way, using studies from
18 2014. Since then, 2015 was the warmest year on
19 record globally and in the last seven months have
20 each matched their all-time high records globally.

21 In fact, March 2016 had the most
22 above-normal temperatures in history, and yet you
23 want to build this facility to export more coal.
24 Doesn't that sound like a problem?

25 Even President Bush, who had personal

1 ties to the fossil fuel industry stated over ten
2 years ago that America is addicted to oil. We are
3 addicted to all fossil fuels in fact and most of
4 the world has joined in that addiction.

5 Do you know any addicts? If you have any
6 beloved friend who is doing lines of cocaine do
7 you offer him some opium because you are worried
8 about poppy farmers staying employed? You know
9 that lots of people are employed by the drug
10 trade.

11 Should we use jobs as an excuse to
12 continue doing something that is proven by
13 scientists to be dangerous and 100 percent harmful
14 to the environment?

15 By continuing to promote fossil fuels,
16 you are absolutely voting in favor of business as
17 usual and enabling the addiction problem. You're
18 adding one more nail in our coffin.

19 Maybe you think that 44 million tons of
20 coal annually won't make or break the climate. I
21 will ask you if you would like to place a bet on
22 it. Because if you are wrong we all lose.

23 I hope you use current climatic
24 information instead of relying on the 2014
25 information.

1 SPEAKER 41: My name is Deborah Romero,
2 and I'm a business owner and concerned citizen
3 from Portland. In addition to all the countless
4 problems with this project, Millennium Bulk is not
5 even an economically viable project.

6 As you know, the Australian company Ambre
7 Energy, which was the chief owner of Millennium
8 Bulk, sold its North American operation because
9 they were in debt, out of cash, and unable to
10 raise the capital before they defaulted on their
11 loan to their creditor. And this creditor was a
12 creditor of last resort. Ambre couldn't even
13 attract anyone else to the table to invest in
14 them.

15 And who is this creditor of last resort?
16 A vulture hedge fund that invests in very high
17 risk deals, and they are the principal owner of
18 Millennium Bulk. This doesn't exactly inspire
19 confidence.

20 And as we know, the minority owner, Arch
21 Coal, just filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. But
22 coal industry bankruptcies are now a dime a dozen.
23 All tolled, nearly 50 U.S. coal mining companies
24 have filed for bankruptcy and more are on the
25 verge.

1 I used to be a stockbroker and I'm well
2 aware that companies can emerge from Chapter 11
3 bankruptcy reorganized. But here's the problem.
4 The entire coal industry is falling apart. It's
5 collapsing. And not just here but in Asia.

6 China has just released detailed plans in
7 February for how they plan to slash coal
8 consumption. This move will accelerate China's
9 well-documented shift away from coal.

10 A quick note: Cloud Peak Energy, one of
11 the coal giants of the Powder River Basin has in
12 the last number of years made more money shorting
13 coal than exporting it.

14 If I were your financial advisor I would
15 counsel each of you to avoid investing in the U.S.
16 postal system if it were a private company. Stay
17 away from print newspapers, big department stores,
18 and for heaven's sakes, don't invest your
19 hard-earned cash in coal projects unless you are
20 going to short them.

21 I besiege you, don't hitch Longview's
22 wagon to this falling star.

23 SPEAKER 42: So, I'm here to support the
24 no action alternative. I'd also like to refer to
25 the Cowlitz Tribe Chairman, Bill Iyall, and his

1 scoping comments from 2013 where he stated that
2 this proposal would bring nothing good for the
3 Cowlitz River or the community, as well as the
4 Cowlitz Tribe.

5 So I do want to emphasize the importance
6 of fisheries' habitat, climate change, and
7 acidification of oceans and how that impacts the
8 multi-million dollar fishing industry and
9 subsistence fishing by native peoples, as well as
10 commercial fishing and sport fishing incomes to
11 the state of Washington, as well as protein
12 that's, you know, provided for the diets of the
13 people in the state.

14 I think the health portion of the DEIS
15 was woefully inadequate. We need a more extensive
16 health impacts assessment.

17 I have been speaking with a number of
18 people, dozens of people in the Highland
19 neighborhood right down close to Industrial. Many
20 of them were not able to make it today. Many of
21 them are ill with cardiovascular illnesses due to
22 the current contamination in that neighborhood.

23 Of course six or eight trains a day full
24 and eight trains empty coming through this
25 neighborhood will not only prevent injured mill

1 workers from getting medical treatment and cause a
2 lot of congestion for people transitioning in and
3 out of the area, blocking of course the Lewis &
4 Clark Bridge, emergency vehicles being disrupted
5 in reaching fires and injuries. Diesel
6 particulates from those trains will impact the
7 health of people in the area.

8 These are also some of the most
9 vulnerable people in the city of Longview that
10 will have to live next to those massive piles of
11 coal that will be blowing coal dust 24/7 into
12 their neighborhoods, and will compound their
13 already tenuous health situations in the
14 neighborhood with many children, elderly people
15 who are already on inhalers, already have asthma,
16 and a number of other illness directly related to
17 the existing releases of VOCs and PAHs and diesel
18 particulates, which of course increase in the
19 area.

20 Combined with the particulate
21 contamination from the coal will produce
22 devastating health impacts, which of course will
23 cost the community millions of dollars in lost
24 wages, lost days of work, in medical care. Many
25 of those people lack health insurance or are

1 underinsured. These are costs that have to be
2 looked at by the County and the City.

3 And of course with the coal industry and
4 decline world wide with a number of major coal
5 companies going bankrupt within the last six
6 months, it's likely that there will be a massive
7 superfund site of contamination that the people of
8 Cowlitz County and Longview will be required to
9 pay for the clean up of that site.

10 So I think that the health impacts really
11 need to be looked at more thoroughly. I do think
12 that in particular the disadvantaged in the
13 vulnerable communities in the Highlands
14 neighborhood need to be directly contacted by
15 Cowlitz County as well as the County Health
16 Authority. I think more work needs to be done in
17 determining what the risks are to those
18 communities, and that there is no mitigation for
19 this.

20 You know, there's no way to completely
21 prevent contamination, there's no way to mitigate
22 against coal dust exposure. Once it enters your
23 lungs it never leaves. So, you know, you balance
24 that with a small number of jobs provided, if you
25 compare the acreage of the site and how many jobs,

1 similar proposals of that size of acreage, how
2 many jobs they produce is a poor economic choice.
3 For that reason as well as I said the dying
4 process of coal, and the impacts of what happens.

5 Like I said, we did get in the scoping
6 process, we got the large scope, so, you know,
7 we're looking at the impacts all the way to
8 Montana, Wyoming, possibly Utah. Coal from Utah
9 could come to this facility.

10 So the rail routes through the Columbia
11 River Gorge national scenic area with uncovered
12 coal trains rolling through it about every hour
13 and a half, the impacts to fisheries, watersheds,
14 human health, congestion, river traffic, I can --

15 I'm going to follow up with a written
16 comment, I think. I just want to make sure that
17 just in this brief comment here I've mentioned a
18 wide variety of issues that I do not feel the EIS
19 has dealt with adequately. And I don't think they
20 can be mitigated.

21 And I'd like the Washington Department of
22 Ecology and Cowlitz County to select the no action
23 alternative.

24 SPEAKER 43: My name is Jenny O'Connor,
25 and I've been working with Climate Action

1 Coalition and some other groups for a while now.
2 So I'm opposed to the building of the terminal,
3 or, you know, building of the project.

4 And I just wanted to cite something that
5 my husband, who's a mechanical engineer sent to
6 me. It's an article that says, "GOP States Are
7 Benefiting From Shift to Wind and Solar Energy,"
8 and it's from the Associated Press. It's by
9 Michael Biesecker, and he said, "Wind turbines and
10 solar panels accounted for more than two-thirds of
11 all new electric generation capacity added to the
12 nation's grade in 2015 according to the recent
13 analysis by the U.S. Department of Energy. The
14 remaining third was largely new power plants
15 fueled by natural gas which has become cheap and
16 plentiful as a result of fracking. So it was the
17 second straight year U.S. investments and renewal
18 projects have outpaced that of fossil fuels."

19 So I guess my point is that, you know, we
20 do, we have to find jobs for people. But this
21 article is saying that, you know, the jobs are
22 shifting. So I guess, you know, my point is,
23 okay, what can we do when our regions bring more
24 of those kind of jobs here.

25 So that's kind of what I'm looking at.

1 Because I listen to all of those people talk about
2 jobs and my heart goes out to them. So it's like,
3 you know, I'm a problem solver. That's kind of
4 where I'm at.

5 So, I'm on the record. No build
6 alternative, and let's get more of those renewable
7 jobs out here.

8 (Session concluded at 9:00 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Cheryl L. Vorhees, Certified Shorthand Reporter for Oregon and Washington, certify that, at the time and place set forth in the caption hereof, I reported in stenotype all testimony adduced and other oral proceedings had in the foregoing matter, that thereafter my notes were reduced to typewriting under my direction; and the foregoing transcript, Page 1 to 85, both inclusive, constitutes a full, true, and correct record of such testimony adduced and oral proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal at Portland, Oregon, this 7th day of June, 2016.



Cheryl L. Vorhees
Certified Shorthand Reporter
CSR No. 08-0409
Exp. 09-30-2016

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