

Blaine Ackley testimony

May 24, 2016

Cowlitz County Commisioners &
Washington Department of Ecology

RE: Longview Coal Export Terminal

I would like to ask you to role play for a moment by putting yourselves in the place of the 13 endangered species of salmon and steelhead on the Columbia River.

After you emerge from your egg, you are subject to the currents and tides in the river. As little fish in a big water, you will stick close to shore but with large ships coming up and down the river at full power, you will be subject to washing up on the shore and dying. You will also be subject to the many environmental degradations and possible derailling of the coal trains plus predation by birds and other fish.

If you are lucky enough to survive all of that, you will find yourself in an ocean that grows more acidic each year. The increased ocean acidity comes in part as a result of the global climate change caused by the burning of coal and other carbon fuels that might be exported from Longview.

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And if you are one of the 5% of all salmon that survive in the ocean for several years, you will return to the Columbia River to spawn and complete the cycle.

Unfortunately for you, more ships will be using the waterway and space will be limited for you to make your way back to your home streams. There will be increased environmental degradation of your habitat since you have been at sea if this plant is built.

Leaving your roles as salmon and looking back on your experience isn't it time that we give the salmon and our environment a break. The combined federal and state governments have spent billions of dollars for salmon survival. The scientific evidence is clear – building this plant will harm the environments of the people and animals who are your neighbors. It is time to say NO to corporate greed and YES to your fellow citizens and creatures.

Sincerely yours,

Blaine Ackley

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blaine Ackley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

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