

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Bill Adams and I'm from Des Moines, WA. I'm a member of the Des Moines Saltwater Unitarian Church Climate Action Now! Team.

My testimony will be based on 4 paragraphs from Mr. Eric de Place's May 4, 2016 article in the Sightline Institute's daily online publication. Mr. de Place's article is entitled "Coal Trains Mean Coal Dust – Period (and trackside communities should worry)."

After reading the entire article, I believe these 4 paragraphs cover the coal dust problem in a concise and very adequate manner.

1. "So much coal dust escapes from the open-top rail cars used for transporting coal that it can create safety problems for rail traffic. Coal dust deposits sometimes cause spontaneous fires, and in 2005, for example, coal dust that had accumulated in ballast, the layer of crushed rock that supports rail tracks, caused derailments. Given the coal export industry's designs on the Northwest, it is important for residents to know more about the coal dust hazard."
2. "If shippers wished to reduce or prevent coal dust from escaping, they could do so by filling cars less full or covering them with tarps or chemical sprays. However, these measures run up the cost of moving coal, so coal shippers prefer not to employ them."
3. "Complicating matters for the Northwest, Powder River Basin (PRB) coal – the type that would be exported from proposed terminals in the region—is notoriously difficult to handle. One technical analysis finds that "PRB coal is extremely friable [easily pulverized] and will break down into smaller particles virtually independent of how the coal is transported or handled." According to the study's authors, "PRB coal represents the extremes of handling problems." The same analysis found that:
4. "Spontaneous combustion of coal is a well-known phenomenon, especially with PRB coal. This high-moisture , highly volatile sub-bituminous coal will not only smolder and catch fire while in storage piles at power plants and coal terminals, but has been known to be delivered to a power plant with the rail car or barge partially on fire."

Based on the above, it would not be a safe environment for the Longview community if this coal terminal project were allowed to go forward. Please do not let it happen.