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**Testimony on Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview DEIS**

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My name is Laura Skelton, and I'm the executive director of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. Our organization consists of approximately 800 medical and health professionals throughout the state.

As physicians, nurses and public health professionals, we are gravely concerned about the risks to human health and safety posed by the Millennium project. And we are not alone. In 2015, the Washington State Medical Association passed a resolution indicating their support for any legislation that would prevent or minimize potential deleterious health effects related to transporting coal by train through Washington State.

A number of alarming health and safety concerns are outlined in the DEIS.

We know that locomotives and marine vessels associated with the project will emit *(Table 47)* literally TONS of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, including diesel particulate matter. Not surprisingly, inhalation cancer risks are expected to rise, especially in major population centers along the rail route.

We know that coal dust will escape from the trains, even when surfactant is applied. That coal dust is expected to raise particulate matter concentrations above the National Ambient Air Quality Standards on the BNSF main line in Cowlitz County, and to exceed *(Table 6-21)*

monthly maximums for coal dust deposition along the Columbia River Gorge. That coal dust contains toxins such as heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

(Table 6-22)

There are already sufficient grounds in the DEIS to select the “No Action” alternative. We encourage Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County to select the “No Action” alternative in the Final EIS, in order to protect the health of all those who call this region home.

Because this coal export project would be huge – the largest in the nation, we also urge you to complete a state-of-the-art Health Impact Assessment that includes a public review process. Such an assessment should thoroughly identify the ways in which this project could impact human health in Longview and across our region.

Thank you.