

May 24, 2016

Millennium Longview Coal Terminal  
DEIS Testimony

My name is Bruce Amundson. I am a physician and President of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. We are primarily interested in the probable health impacts.

By BNSF's own accounts, the shipment of coal in open cars is an environmentally polluting enterprise. Up to 3% of transported coal can be lost per shipment, so when massive quantities are shipped, the contamination will be, not MIGHT be, very significant. A study of a Virginia coal terminal showed that within 1 kilometer of the terminal 20% of the soil was coal dust.

There are two primary contaminants from coal transport: coal dust and diesel emissions.

First coal dust. While airborne coal dust has been documented to cause severe lung disease in coal miners, lower levels of respired dust, within legal limits, have also been shown to cause lung disease. This is especially the case for children. Coal dust can also aggravate existing lung diseases such as asthma.

The second major pollutant is diesel exhaust. The pollutants of greatest concern are particles of tiny size, 2.5 microns or less, because they are small enough to be carried deep into lung tissue. And diesel engines produce these at a rate 20 times greater than gasoline engines.

Diesel emissions have been implicated in a number of diseases involving lungs heart and brain.

The research findings are not subtle. Moderate increases in levels of PM 2.5 have been shown to increase substantially both pulmonary and cardiovascular death rates. A 2009 study showed that even living close to a major highway was strongly associated with left heart hypertrophy, an important cause of heart failure.

In summary, diesel exhaust and coal dust are toxic to human health, and thousands of people will live and work in close proximity to the trains and terminal.

We strongly oppose the plan to construct the Millennium Bulk Terminal due to serious risks to human health.

At the very least we insist that a Health Impact Assessment be included in the EIS. A proposal of this immense magnitude must include a thorough assessment of the serious health risks. Social justice and public health protection demand it.

Bruce Amundson, MD  
President  
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility  
4500-9th Ave NE, Suite 92  
Seattle WA 98105

May 18, 2016

Jill Mangaliman, Got Green  
Rich Stolz, OneAmerica  
Tony Lee, Asian Pacific Islander Coalition  
Mauricio Ayon, Washington CAN  
Peter Bloch Garcia, Latino Community Fund  
Rebecca Saldaña, Puget Sound Sage  
Aiko Schaefer, Front & Centered  
Rosalinda Guillen, Community to Community Development  
Sarah Clifthorne, Washington Federation of State Employees  
Sarah Cherin, UFCW21  
Adam Glickman, SEIU 775  
Jeff Johnson, WSLC/AFL-CIO

Dear Alliance Colleagues,

Thank you for the letter you sent in March, requesting us to formally take a position in opposition to I-732.

After careful consideration of the initiative, our organization has decided to remain neutral on I-732 at this time.

We at WPSR deeply appreciate your work in the Alliance and respect your decision to formally oppose I-732. Like you, we are committed to developing a carbon pricing policy that is just and equitable. We agree that it is imperative to build a movement that includes all who call Washington home.

Our organization is proud to be part of the Alliance with you and to support the Alliance's work to address one of the world's most urgent threats to human health and safety.

Sincerely,

Bruce Amundson, M.D.  
President

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