

May 25, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to protest the export of coal out of Washington State and the transport of that coal on trains through Spokane, WA. There are many concerns I have with the movement of coal through this region and the burning of this coal once it reaches its intended locations.

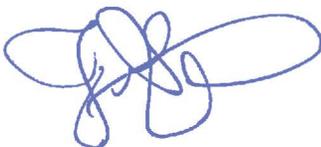
Globally, exporting coal has major negative long term ramifications. As suppliers of coal to the Asian countries, we are accomplices to the contribution of greenhouse gas emissions creating global warming. This global warming would be sped up by the millions of tons of pollution emitted by the poorly regulated Asian factories when burning our exported coal.

Locally, this will impact residents in a major way. The coal dust exposure during transportation will have negative impacts on the air we breathe and the water we drink. Because of the increased train traffic, the diesel exhaust from the trains themselves will also have a negative impact on the health and well being of the environment. Increasing train traffic would also create longer delays for cars, including emergency vehicles. This would cause congestion and longer idle times for cars, adding even more to the air pollution. Having an additional 48 trains per day pass through Spokane would also contribute to noise pollution.

There appears to be no economic benefit to Spokane at all in the coal being transported from Montana to the Washington State coast. The only impacts seem to be negative ones.

I believe it would be very irresponsible for Washington State to approve the export of this coal and the transportation of it through our state.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jacqueline Gibson

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