

Subject: Millennium Bulk Terminal

To whom it may concern:

I support the “no action” alternative in the Millennium Bulk Terminals Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This project would harm our climate, air and water quality, with the most intense impacts felt by residents of Longview, WA and surrounding towns. This project threatens our climate and would harm our health and safety, air and water quality, and natural resources. I urge your agencies to protect public health and natural resources and reject coal export.

Climate Change: The Northwest is leading the nation in the fight to combat climate change. Considering rail and vessel emissions alone, this project would be one of the biggest greenhouse gas emitters in Washington State. Coal export undermines the region’s hard work to combat climate change and protect future generations.

Health & the Environment: The Draft EIS reveals many serious impacts to human health and the environment. It dismisses other impacts without a valid basis. The Final EIS should incorporate the best available science, real world examples, and a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment. The agencies undercut public, tribal, and agency input by failing to complete a Health Impact Assessment before releasing the Draft EIS.

Rail & Marine Traffic: The Draft EIS demonstrates Millennium would have a severe impact on rail and road congestion and the increased shipping would threaten the tourism and fishing industries on the Columbia River. Because Millennium cannot fix these significant harms --from mine to terminal to the Pacific -- the agencies should deny the permits.

Weak & Unenforceable Mitigation: In some instances, the Draft EIS claims mitigation can reduce coal dust, rail traffic, and other project impacts. For example, to mitigate coal dust from the terminal, the Draft EIS proposes a reporting process for coal dust complaints. This borders on offensive. A phone call or email to complain about coal dust fouling a person’s lungs, home, and river is not “mitigation.” The agencies should revise the Draft EIS and remove inadequate, unsupported, and unenforceable mitigation.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Schellhorn
Ardmore, PA 19003