

Washington St. Dept. of Ecology  
Millennium Bulk Terminals EIS  
c/o ICF International  
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Washington State Dept. of Ecology

Put Our Communities Before Coal Exports.

The proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals (MBT) coal export facility in Longview would lead to a dramatic increase in coal train traffic through dozens of Montana communities in order to get coal from Montana and Wyoming mines to the port for shipment to Asia.

This coal train traffic will lead to increased diesel exhaust and coal dust pollution in communities along the tracks, threatening neighbors' health. It will also lead to increased traffic congestion and safety hazards, as ambulances and fire engines risk being trapped at rail crossings behind mile-long trains separating them from emergencies.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement does not assess the rail impacts the MBT would have in Montana. The document acknowledges that trains destined for the port will originate in the Powder River Basin and travel through Montana, but does not study the impacts of increased rail transportation outside of Washington's borders. I request that this issue be addressed in the final EIS.

In addition, coal exports create added pressure for new Montana mines, in a region where coal seams are aquifers and increased mining threatens our land, water, and climate. These impacts are significant and must be taken into account.

The impacts of building a coal port in Longview would be significant. Coal exports would take a toll on Montana and the world. I urge you to deny the permit for the proposed coal port in Longview.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dowling  
1825 10th Street W.  
Billings, MT 59102