

## Proposed Longview Coal Terminal Comments by James Pritchard, September 18, 2013

- My name is James Pritchard and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to express my views on this crucial issue. I express those views with a deep concern about the future health of my kids and grand kids.
- My understanding is that Millennium's coal export proposal at Longview, WA would create the capacity to export 44 million tons of coal from Power River to Asian markets each year. The effects of shipping that volume of coal are frightening:
  - ◆ The coal dust and its impact on our water quality and aquatic habitat
  - ◆ The tons of nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides emitted by the trains and shipping vessels. (*Research reported by The Guardian in 2009 indicates that shipping is responsible for 18-30% of all the worldwide NOx pollution and 9% of all global SOx. Remarkably, 16 supertankers emit as much sulfur each year as all the cars in the world.\**)
  - ◆ The perpetuation of the mining and burning of coal and all its attendant problems: smog, toxic mercury, coal ash waste, and coal plant water pollution
- But, an even greater threat, in my view is the amount of carbon that will be dumped into our atmosphere and its impact on global warming. Think about it for a moment; it takes fossil fuel-based energy to:
  - Extricate the coal from the Power River Basin
  - Send it by train to the Longview Terminal
  - Ship it to Asian ports (and have those ships return)\*\*

Then, of course, the biggest outpouring of carbon occurs from the burning of the 44 million tons of coal each year in Asia countries. That's crazy, especially at a time when we are making the slow shift to alternative sources of energy. Sending coal to Asia is simply spewing poison into the air. It is toxic to our health, it ups the ante on global warming, and it delays our progress toward clean energy - where the real jobs of the future lay.

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\*The Guardian, April 9, 2008: "Health Risks Of Shipping Pollution Have Been Underestimated".

\*\*A rough calculation based on data reported in the same 2009 Guardian article is that average container ship discharges more than 10,000 tons of CO2 into the atmosphere each year.

- And rest assured, if the Longview coal terminal is built, other terminals will follow, and 44 million tons of coal will seem like a walk in the park compared to the vast amount of exports to come.
- So as not to be too hypocritical, I suggest we do our part as well and set a firm goal for the Northwest of reducing our fossil-fuel energy use by 20% over 20 years. Then we need to make it happen.
- Somewhere, we need to take a stand against the burning of more coal. This is the place to make that stand in the Northwest. On behalf of all of our kids and grand kids, I ask you to take a comprehensive and cumulative view of the many environmental effects of giving the go-ahead to the proposed Longview coal terminal project. Thank you.