

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
9th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
JOE SCHMICK

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives

HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS
RANKING MEMBER
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL
RESOURCES
APPROPRIATIONS



September 23, 2013

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

To Whom It May Concern:

As our economy struggles to recover from the recession, one of Washington's fundamental needs is to enact policies that foster job creation. Export expansion is one of Washington's best opportunities for long-term economic stability, and as a result, a great opportunity to secure and improve the public good. To do so, our state needs to take advantage and diversify export opportunities by providing a consistent and streamlined regulatory review process.

The trade and export industry is one of the foundations of Washington's economy, supporting about 40 percent of all jobs in our state. Our facilities are projected to supply about 12,000 jobs, \$800 million in wages, and \$140 million in state and local tax revenue. To stay competitive, we must continue to expand our capacity for trade. New private investment to expand existing port facilities will make Washington more competitive. Made possible by the shipment of coal, these investments will benefit all trade industries, allowing us to export more agricultural, timber, and other products while meeting the growing global demand for affordable energy.

These private investments will not only help expand export opportunities for other bulk commodities, but will also increase access to rail and international markets. Authorizing these proposed facilities will help modernize our trade infrastructure, ensuring long-term success for our export industries. Expanded exports will boost trade with global markets, allowing our ports to become more competitive in these growing markets.

There's no debating the economic benefits of these proposed facilities for our state and our trade industry. Unfortunately, export opponents have taken means to delay the reviews of these facilities; and creating a regulatory nightmare for the private investors is a real cause for concern. An adverse change in regulations could unintentionally hinder commodity industries. Creating a regulatory maze would place new regulatory hurdles in the way of future projects and undermine economic development – something our state simply cannot afford. The consequences of inconsistent regulations will ultimately hinder our state's competitiveness in the trade and export industry.

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Our efforts should be focused on ensuring Washington remains a trade and export leader through private expansion. That means providing consistent regulatory reviews to foster the full potential of industry development. If we ensure our state's reviews and regulations will help, not hinder, business development, it will go a long way toward spurring our state's economic growth and prosperity. Make no mistake: Washington's unprecedented, overreaching review of export investments will further hurt our economy if the state does not find a way to move forward in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Schmick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joe Schmick
State Representative

Cc: US Army Corps of Engineers
Cowlitz County