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Testimony r.e. Millennium Bulk Terminal's coal export proposal in Longview, WA

From Judith DeJarnatt Fardig

I grew up in Longview, riding my bike to Olympic and Northlake Elementary Schools, loving Y Camp at Spirit Lake and eventually graduating valedictorian from R.A. Long High School. Since then I've had careers in public health and education and am currently a neighborhood team leader for Organizing For Action and a member of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. The health of people and our shared environment has always been important to me and my family.

Longview is a pretty town with a long-standing challenge of pollution from the industrial plants along the Columbia River. Please don't make this worse by adding a coal export terminal. Coal is one of the dirtiest fossil fuels contributing to global climate change. Transporting coal through the Columbia Gorge to Longview will contaminate waterways, soil, and air. Ultimately, at the final destination, burning coal will result in pollutants like mercury, smog, and particulate matter that are harmful to human health. Worldwide, more carbon pollution comes from the burning of coal than any other fuel.

We must not be shortsighted by looking only at the few local jobs that would be created. Instead we need to look critically at the environmental and health impacts during the transportation process and on the world-wide effect of coal-burning in Asia where the Longview terminal coal is most likely to be exported. It WILL blow back on us with both global and local public health consequences.

If my parents, Senator Arlie DeJarnatt and Donna DeJarnatt were still alive, I'm sure they would join me in urging Longview to look forward to clean, renewable energy jobs, not last-century dirty coal that will bring quick profits only to a few.