

Date: September 17, 2013

To: Port of Longview Representatives

Re: Comments of Port of Longview Coal Export

Thanks for the opportunity to comment today. I want to talk in the time I have about the Columbia River and jobs.

Your Environmental Analysis must consider all effects of the proposed coal exports to be meaningful, since the affects will stretch far beyond Longview. They must include all effects on the river, the air, and on Salmon.

This year's fall Chinook run was banner. Stories like 'largest run since Bonne Dam was built in the 1930's have run in the news. There are lots of opinions why. The one I believe has had the greatest affect is that we are learning how to treat the river better, like increased spring time spill over the dams to help juvenile salmon move downstream.

It turns out the river downstream of Bonneville dam is very important to salmon, those fall Chinook especially. The juveniles can spend months rearing in the estuary (between Bonneville dam and the mouth), unlike other salmonids like coho or steelhead. So how we treat the river down here is important if we want more good news from the salmon.

I just got back from our annual fishing trip to the Astoria area with my son and nephew. As usual the towns of Ilwaco, Astoria, Chinook were bustling with activity. The guides, store owners, hotels and others had a great year economically.

The trip always reminds me of the question; what kind of economy and jobs do we want here in the Pacific Northwest? They can be jobs digging up coal in Montana and shipping it to Asia so we get acidifying oceans, polluted air and more climate change. Or we can take another path and take care of the river and create jobs that way.

Your Environmental Assessment must consider all impacts on the land, air and water, because our future and family wage jobs depend on it.

Thank you,

Alex Uber
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