

My name is Peter Farnam. I was born in Eastern Oregon. I've spent most of my life there. I've raised my family there. My children and

grandchildren live there now. I have taken time off work to be here and give this testimony. I've traveled over one hundred and fifty

miles to be here. I will receive no compensation, salary or wage for being here. Nor do I expect to benefit in any way depending on your

decision regarding this issue. I am submitting this testimony solely because I believe it is important to do so. It is my duty as a father,

grandfather and citizen.

We are here to talk about a proposed Export terminal to be built in Longview, WA. The coal to be transshipped through this terminal will

have been mined on public lands hundreds of miles to the East. And, of course, the "Terminal" would be by no means the ultimate

destination of that coal. There will be impacts to the land, water, air and life at every stage on the long journey the coal is expected to

make. Because the terminal is integral to this chain and this hearing is an opportunity to address the problems along it, I will comment on

some of the inherent consequences of sighting this facility.

The process of extracting this coal is extremely destructive to the land there. Thousands of acres, that also happens to be habitat for the

creatures that live there are tore up. Hauling the incredible quantity of coal proposed through the region on rails that are already being

used to capacity will have a negative impact on the health and economies of the communities of the region. The additional rail traffic will

have an adverse affect on the farmers and other business people who depend on access to the rail system to move their products and

goods. Likewise, any barges used for moving the coal will be barges not used for shipping wheat to market. The coal dust that blows off

the rail cars will pollute the ground, water and air all along the route, much of which follows water courses. Many of the health risks for

humans associated with coal dust are well documented. I believe that there is still a need to study the effects of introducing this toxic

substance into ecosystems where it has never been seen in any appreciable quantity. What, for example, might be the effect of coal

dust on vulnerable aquatic species like salmon and steelhead?

The negative effects of burning fossil fuels, coal being one of the dirtiest, are widely acknowledged in the scientific community. There is

little doubt that humans are causing a shift in global climate patterns by releasing carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere. It

is predicted that if we do not drastically change this pattern, there will be serious consequences affecting the the survival of our specie.

Possibly in my lifetime. Likely in my childrens' lifetime. Most certainly in the lifetime of my grandchildren. It is inconceivable to me that

we are even considering abetting this process, especially on a scale of this magnitude.

Thank you for the opportunity voice my opposition to this proposal.