

Tacoma, WA Thursday 10.17.13 4 pm Convention Center

This hearing is purported to consider only the environmental impacts of the specific activities within the proposed Longview port area and its immediate environs. That ignores the important considerations of the consequences of activities which will take place if **any** of the proposed coal ports is established. It must NOT be assumed that the export **WILL** take place without any consideration of the cumulative impacts of mining, shipping, and burning unlimited amounts of fossil fuels. It would be amusing if it were not so tragic to recognize that building such a port enables and accelerates the rising of sea level eventually to submerge that very port area.

As a former student, researcher, and professor of atmospheric chemistry I assure you that there is no doubt that the increase in carbon dioxide in the air as a result of burning all fossil fuels is causing global warming, ocean acidification, and sea level rising. The burning of coal specifically puts into the air fine particle pollutants that penetrate deeply into the lungs, causing black lung disease, lung cancer, and asthma. I have lived for a year in Chengdu, China, where we saw sunshine for only a few days and only once could see the mountains to the west. Industries in surrounding provinces were shut down many weeks before the Beijing Olympics to allow the air to clear. But the truth of the matter is that the carbon dioxide and fine particulates come back to us here: we even get airborne sand from the Gobi desert.

Arguments for the port include a few hundred jobs: ocean acidification is already wreaking havoc on thousands of workers' jobs in the shellfish industries of this state, as well as violating treaty rights of Native American tribes. Proponents argue that if we don't build this port, the shipments will take place anyway from another location, or that if the United States doesn't sell coal to China, they will just get dirtier coal from elsewhere. Would you accept the argument that if you don't smuggle drugs into the United States, someone else will just do it anyway? Do we want to be the enablers of addiction to fossil fuels? Do we have that right? I say no: NO to coal mines, NO to coal trains, NO to coal burning.