

Dear Sirs:

I am submitting the following as a written comment regarding both the Cherry Point and Longview terminals for the loading of coal for shipment overseas. I would like to have a reply to verify that it has been received.

I have several concerns about the shipping of these large quantities of coal from our state of Washington and/or the state of Oregon. I am going to address them in the order of most importance to me.

1. **EXPENSE TO OUR STATE:** The biggest problem as I see it is the fact that Spokane and the surrounding area will receive a very large increase in railroad traffic. This will cause a very real economic hard ship on the area, both in time lost by citizens and commercial traffic at rail crossings, but also because of more car/train accidents because of the increased traffic. Spokane already has a large amount of car/train accidents which many times have caused the death of the occupants of the vehicle. Knowing exactly how our railroads think and operate, after this becomes apparent as a problem, they will go the local governments and declare that these are local problems. They will insist that the local tax base pay for any underpasses, crossing guards or other infrastructure needed to protect the motorist and keep auto traffic moving in a reasonable manner. **I AM ABSOLUTELY AGAINST ANY COSTS BEING PAID BY THE STATE, COUNTIES OR CITIES FOR TRACK IMPROVEMENT OR GRADE CROSSING IMPROVEMENT THAT WILL ASSIST THE RAILROADS OR THE COAL COMPANIES TO MAKE MORE PROFIT.** The few jobs will be gained for having these coal ports is minimal and will never offset the other costs that we in this state will have to bear. Any and all costs now or in the future must be borne by the railroads and the coal companies and the operators of the facilities. **DO NOT LET BIG BUSSINESS RAID OUR FUNDS FOR THEIR GREEDY PROFIT!**

2. **POLLUTION:** Pollution will occur to some degree just because of the very large amount of material that will be moved each and every day. The first will be from the train cars as they move through our area. I know they claim to spray a material that will reduce pollution. Please note, they do not claim to be able to **PREVENT POLLUTION.** That is because of the variables in the loading, the weather, and the possibilities of accidents and derailments. I do not think that all is as safe and sound as the railroads would have you believe. Next is the fact that they will be loading large amounts of coal at the port and these are in critical waterways, both for people and for the fish and other aquatic life in the areas. We have invested millions of dollars to improve our water and fish habitat and they want to come along and pollute it for their personal gain. **DO NOT LET THEM.**

No one in Oregon or Washington will ever receive any benefit from these projects other than the few who will get a job. I am always in favor of new jobs, but in this case the few jobs obtained will never offset the losses that the people of this state, this community, this city will ever recover.

Respectfully,

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