

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
18th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
LIZ PIKE
ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN
FLOOR LEADER

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



ENVIRONMENT
ASSISTANT RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
HOUSING & TRIBAL AFFAIRS
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
EDUCATION

November 13th, 2013

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2013

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

Maia Bellon, Director
Washington State Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Director Bellon:

With our economy still recovering from the recent recession, I believe that Washington must create an economic climate that encourages job creation and economic growth, and this is why I support the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals. Residents in Southwest Washington are still struggling. Our corner of the state continues to have chronic high unemployment, lagging far behind most of the state. The Millennium Bulk Terminal project represents \$600 million of dollars in private investment at the Port of Longview. For this reason, I urge you to consider the size and scope of the proposed environmental review for these terminals.

I am writing to you today as an elected official, with a constituency that is increasingly concerned that the proposed coal export facilities in Washington and Oregon are being turned into a highly politicized issue that overlooks the much needed economic growth and job creation that would be associated by expanding trade.

The former Reynolds Aluminum site has undergone a massive environmental cleanup process due to a successful and collaborative effort by Washington's Department of Ecology and Millennium Bulk Terminals. This project presents a rare opportunity for Cowlitz County to bring this significant industrial site back into productive use to create more than two thousand construction jobs and more than 300 permanent family wage jobs for Longview residents.

By conducting a reasonable review process, other important private investment will continue coming to the State of Washington to ensure vibrant export trade in our region.

Nearly forty percent of all Washington jobs are tied to trade related activity, and large, private investments are essential in providing for the future of our trade and export industry. We all benefit from new private investments that expand trade here. The Washington Research Council recently found that our state has a large investment gap, which may undermine the future of the industry to our state. The Millennium Bulk Terminals represent new opportunities to expand and diversify our exports and help close this investment gap. And without continued investment and

growth, we risk seeing our region fall behind as British Columbia and other U.S. port cities secure new opportunities and investments.

I will do all I can to protect our environment; however, I think it would be a grave error for the state to conduct a global review of the proposed export facilities. Recently, your department proposed a two year global review of a similar export facility, and this is a precedent that truly worries me. If we study the local, national, and global effects of a single commodity, it would set the precedent that any commodity, from agriculture to timber, could be subject to the same global review.

Without a doubt, environmental questions must be addressed. But export controls and inconsistent regulations are not an appropriate outlet to address those questions. The precedent this global review would set would badly damage our economy and threaten major Washington employers.

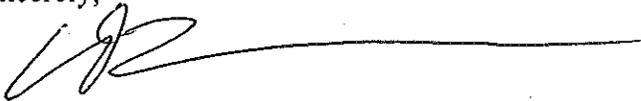
My constituents have followed this issue closely. Washington is home to an existing, stringent environmental review processes that would sufficiently address the impacts of these facilities, while not turning our back on this economic opportunity. Our communities value environmental safeguards and the existing review processes can and will fully establish that these projects are sound, both today and in the future.

On the other hand, globally evaluating the impacts of the proposed export projects would drastically overstep the bounds of reasonable review. To establish such a precedent would burden our region's current trade and exporters with needless red tape and ward off future investments in our state.

I ask you to reconsider your request to expand the environmental review to a national and international level. For the benefit of our community, examine the facts on the ground as they relate specifically to local conditions – the review of which is more than provided for under existing rules and standards. I along with my constituents hope that you will change course and put your support behind the port projects, joining with workers all over the Northwest who want to build a better future for their families and communities.

Southwest Washington is ready to build a robust economy – and do our part to protect the environment. This doesn't have to be an either-or issue. The expanded export facilities will provide a living wage for workers and real benefits that will allow them to provide for their families. All they want is a chance to go to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Liz Pike', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Liz Pike
Washington State Representative, 18th District