



# Wyoming County Commissioners Association

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October 12, 2016

Millennium Bulk Terminals NEPA EIS  
c/o ICF International  
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550  
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview Proposed Action – NEPA Draft EIS Public Comment

Dear ICF International:

The Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview, LLC (Millennium) is proposing to construct and operate a marine terminal for export of coal in Cowlitz County, Washington. The following comment letter in support of the project is being submitted on behalf of Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA).

The WCCA is an organization consisting of the Boards of County Commissioners of all 23 Wyoming counties. As local government officials with direct responsibility for the economic stability of our counties, we are aware of the positive financial impact that this project may have on our counties' income stream. Collectively, we rely heavily on the revenue generated from the production of coal in Wyoming. Wyoming's counties depend on the production of coal to support our economic viability, as well as the economic viability of our entire state's economy. Revenue from coal production is necessary to fund essential governmental services.

Coal is a reliable and economically efficient energy source that will continue to be used for decades. The Department of Energy's Annual Energy Outlook 2015 predicts U.S. coal production could potentially increase 60 million tons by 2040. Wyoming itself produced over 375 million tons of coal last year in an environmentally friendly way that requires complete reclamation of the land. The financial contribution to state and local governments in the form of taxes, royalties, and fees was approximately \$1 billion. Wyoming's share of federal mineral royalties – royalties paid to mine the leased coal - was over \$200 million. These revenue streams pay for K-12 school construction, highways, social services, and higher education construction and operational funding.

Wyoming has been an international leader in clean coal research and development to ensure we will continue to be environmental stewards of our natural resources and their use. For example:

- New developments are expected in Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology to further enhance the efficiency of coal-fired generation.
- The University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources is doing research to understand carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) processes.
- In 2012, the Wyoming State Legislature directed \$10 million to the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources for clean coal research.
- Since 2007, almost \$41 million has been awarded by the Clean Coal Task Force for research in areas such as development of new technologies that reduce emissions from coal, integration of carbon capture technologies, and pilot-scale demonstrations of emerging technologies.

Just as Wyoming and the coal industry takes very seriously its obligations to reclaim land for native flora and fauna, the Millennium proposal should be commended for the vision to reclaim an industrial site currently unused to make way for a safe and productive import-export facility. These activities have already improved the environment and will provide stable family-wage jobs and vital tax revenue for Longview, Cowlitz County, and both Wyoming and Washington state.

Thank you for considering our thoughts on the Millennium project. We are more than happy to provide additional information or answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Ladwig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Ladwig  
WCCA President  
Niobrara County Commissioner