



Association
of Washington
Business

Washington State's Chamber of Commerce

November 28, 2016

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

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

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Association of Washington Business (AWB) I am writing to underscore our support for Millennium Bulk Terminals project in Longview, Washington.

We were pleased to see the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Longview proposal, and appreciate the work of the Corps in compiling this important review. It has been more than four years since Millennium submitted its permit applications for the project, making this the most comprehensive federal review of any infrastructure project along the Columbia River ever. It is time to move forward on this project so that Washington state can continue to protect its legacy as the most trade-dependent state in the nation.

Economically, this project stands to provide a crucial infusion of jobs and economic development in a struggling corner of our state. Millennium Bulk Terminals would provide more than 2,650 direct and indirect jobs during construction, as well as 300 full-time, family-wage permanent jobs. It will also generate additional tax revenue — more than \$37 million to the state and \$5 million to the county during construction. Ongoing operations are estimated to generate nearly \$6 million in tax collections for the state, local governments and special purpose districts annual.

Millennium has already made significant contributions to the Longview community through its environmental clean-up efforts. This project, located on the site of the former Reynolds plant, has undergone substantial environmental and structural enhancements to bring this industrial site up to speed for new uses. It has revitalized an important, long-established industrial zone that can be used to create jobs and modernize our highly-valued port infrastructure.

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In addition to the crucial local investment provided by this project, Millennium Bulk Terminals would also greatly enhance Washington state's trade competitiveness. As the most trade-dependent state in the nation, every effort to enhance our state's trade infrastructure will benefit Washington's overall economic climate while boosting its trade capacity. In order for our state to remain competitive in a global marketplace, we must capitalize on private investments like Millennium Bulk Terminals. Our neighbors to the north and south are already investing heavily in their port infrastructure. Washington state must continue to modernize its rail, ports and other key export systems if it hopes to keep pace with other states and countries — and maintain our top trade status.

Millennium Bulk Terminals has been subject to one of the longest environmental reviews of any project ever proposed for the Columbia River. From an environmental perspective, this project has withstood multiple, detailed reviews, including that of the Army Corps. The NEPA draft EIS has been explicit in its analysis, underscoring that there would not be any significant adverse environmental impacts from coal dust as a result of this project. The minor impacts identified were accompanied with appropriate recommendations for mitigation or ongoing analysis. Both state and county regulators have also made it clear in their SEPA draft EIS that Millennium can meet Washington's strict environmental standards. From our perspective, these are key findings that should not impede the permit process.

The Millennium Bulk Terminals project represents a real opportunity to improve our state's infrastructure, bolster the economy for generations to come all the while protecting the environmental integrity of our state. In Washington state, our economy continues to gain momentum. We have seen pockets of economic recovery, though it lags in rural areas with a traditional manufacturing base. This multi-commodity terminal will provide a net benefit to the entire region, while providing a significant economic boost to a community that continues to struggle.

We urge your approval of this project.

Sincerely,



Kris Johnson

President

Association of Washington Business