



Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

A Division of the Rail Conference — International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Region IV State Legislative Boards

Idaho – Montana – North Dakota – Oregon – Washington – Wyoming

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

November 22, 2016

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

Dear ICF International:

Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview, LLC (Millennium) is proposing to construct and operate a marine terminal for bulk export in Cowlitz County, Washington. The following comment letter, **IN SUPPORT** of the project, is hereby submitted on behalf of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen (BLET), Region IV, State Legislative Board Chairmen representing the states of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) and its predecessor organizations were one of the earliest labor unions and the first permanent trade organization representing the interests of railroad workers in North America. For over 153 years, BLET has served its members and continues a proud tradition today as a division of the Teamsters Rail Conference.

The State Legislative Boards of the BLET have a proud tradition of serving the membership of their respective states in the areas of safety, health, education, and legislative affairs. Many of today's BLET state legislative boards have documented activity over many decades and, in the case of Montana and Washington, are recognized as the most senior boards dating back to establishment in 1904. On behalf of the BLET Region IV State Legislative Board Chairmen of Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming, we offer the following:

BLET members across the country have been and remain today an integral component in hauling commodities and delivering consumer products essential to industry, agriculture, and the American public in all walks of life. Coal is just one of those commodities and continues to be a core source of energy for both American communities and our Asian allies across the Pacific. While U.S. coal consumption has declined in recent years due in large part to lower natural gas prices, overseas demand for coal products remains strong. Considering about one in every five railroad jobs can be directly linked to coal haulage, we can say with a high degree of certainty many BLET members have been adversely affected by the decline in coal use in the U.S market.



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BLET members operate the locomotives and run the trains on the American railroads that haul most every type commodity and cargo on earth. It is vitally important to BLET the family-wage railroad jobs that have provided work and opportunity to nearly every community across our great country continues. Further, BLET supports and encourages the creation of the family-wage American jobs a healthy and robust U.S. railroad industry encourages. While the United States is moving toward other energy sources, countries in Asia are increasingly turning to coal as an abundant, dependable, and affordable source to power their cities, towns, and economies. BLET believes in and supports fair trade and the vital upgrades to trade infrastructure needed to keep America strong. Additionally, “landlocked” interior states must be afforded access to Pacific trade routes essential to their economies.

Millennium represents a key trans-load seaport portal for accessing Asian markets while preserving and creating American jobs. Further, BLET recognizes the important role Millennium will play in stabilizing the domestic coal market that has seen a drastic downturn in recent years. BLET looks forward to continuing its integral role in safe operation of every train, regardless of commodity, across the BLET Region IV State Legislative Board territory – just as we have done for the past 153 years.

After nearly five years, we are grateful the Army Corps of Engineers, National Environmental Protection Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement (NEPA DEIS) for Millennium is published and public comment periods have been opened to all. We firmly believe the study confirms the initial commodity, i.e. coal, can be safely transported by rail and shipped without undue impact to public safety, health, or the environment. Important to note is the NEPA DEIS indicates the construction and operation of Millennium will meet all legal environmental standards for both air and water quality. This is in keeping with earlier draft analysis undertaken by Cowlitz County and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

The NEPA DEIS process is based on known and accepted science. It has allowed for extensive public input, from several geographic locations, to ensure a very thorough examination of every potential impact. BLET believes the time has come for all the permitting agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers, to finalize the environmental reviews, move forward, and issue decisions on the permits needed to construct and operate Millennium. Economies of several U.S. States, BLET members, other railroad and industry workers, U.S. businesses, and customers here and abroad are dependent on the timely completion of this process. Thank you.



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Respectfully,

Cory L. Runion, Chairman
NASLBC, Region IV
Wyoming State Legislative Board

Shahrain C. Allen, Chairman
Washington State Legislative Board

Allan L. Humphries, Chairman
Idaho State Legislative Board

Scott G. Palmer, Chairman
Oregon State Legislative Board

D.B. Kenner, Chairman
Montana State Legislative Board

Charles D. Weick, Chairman
North Dakota Legislative Board