

June 13, 2016

To: Washington Department of Ecology

From: Jane Fritz

RE: Proposed Longview Coal Terminal

Dear Gentle People:

I am writing to express opposition to the proposed coal terminal at Longview, Washington. The coal that would be shipped overseas from this facility would travel by rail through my town and over and along our most precious natural resource — Lake Pend Oreille — as well as along the Clark Fork River in Idaho and Montana, which feeds our lake.

There's the possibility of an additional 16 trains funneling through our communities, half of which would be fully loaded and in open-topped railcars, traveling all the way from the Powder River Basin. Having lived near the tracks for several years in the recent past, I know it is not only coal dust that falls from the train cars but also huge chunks of the mined material, full of heavy metals like arsenic and mercury. But I have learned that up to 500 pounds of this toxic dust can escape from the railcars as it travels this 460-mile route. This is totally unacceptable! Exposure to coal dust has been linked to several lung diseases, especially for children and elders. As an elder with sensitive lungs, I was also very much bothered by the diesel exhaust coming from the four engines required to haul over 110 cars full of very heavy material. I could not leave my windows open at all with the existing coal trains; I cannot imagine how bad the air quality would be if there were 16 more!

The coal terminal might not be located here, but that doesn't keep it from affecting my health because of rail transport. My health and the health of thousands of others is far more important to risk for such a foolhardy project. Jobs are fine to have, but health is a matter of life and death.

I am also concerned about what would happen to our water quality if a derailment would occur in our precious watershed. Clean water is essential to our way of life and to our recreation economy. Jeopardizing this and my

region's quality of life because somebody in China wants U.S. coal for energy is simply just not acceptable! I also worry about what an accident would mean to the Columbia River and the salmon fishery that is still so vulnerable and in recovery. With the recent oil train explosion along the Columbia just goes to show how dangerous fossil fuels are to ship by rail.

But the biggest concern for me about this insane proposal is climate change. We need to keep coal in the ground! It is time to take serious actions towards changing energy development to alternative, non-polluting sources like wind and solar. More coal mining is NOT what the planet needs. Enough already!

I implore you to reject the terminal application as intolerable to human health and the environment and the Earth.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please take them seriously. We need to change our dysfunctional and destructive way of life.

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