

No to Coal

“First, do no harm” is the bedrock of medical ethics.

While we understand that we can't expect economic development to do “no harm”, we should expect it to do “more good than harm”.

To have our port handle 44 million tons per year of coal would definitely do more harm than good economically and environmentally.

As a real estate agent, I have conducted well over a 100 community tours to people thinking of moving here. As much as I love our community, it's often very difficult to recruit prospective employees to move here.

In our tours, I often drive to the Oregon side of the river to show a good view of our community. The reaction to seeing mountains of coal would be incredibly negative.

Our community already suffers from much higher than average rates of death from cancer, heart disease and chronic respiratory illnesses. Research shows that adding coal to the mix will exacerbate this.

Although Millennium says it will make best efforts to reduce the amount of coal dust covering our homes and polluting our rivers, residents of other communities with coal export terminals in places like Baltimore, Maryland and Norfolk, Virginia say that coal dust literally coats their homes.

Even more important are the long-term global environmental impacts of burning coal for fuel.

Climate change is real. Look across our country at the increased flooding in Colorado, tornados in Oklahoma, hurricanes in New York & New Jersey, droughts in Texas, etc. People my age will probably be OK, but we need to fight to protect the younger generations.

We've already received calls from clients who want to sell their homes and move away if the coal terminal is built.

In short, I strongly believe that we stand to lose far more as a community than the 130 jobs touted by Millennium.

We need economic development that does more good than harm.

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