

Dear Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology, and Cowlitz County

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Rick Marshall, and I live and work in Camas, WA.

I strongly oppose the construction of the Millennium coal export terminal and transporting strip-mined coal from Montana and Wyoming on trains that must go through downtown Camas. As a local real estate developer, I urge you to consider the negative health and economic impacts on rail communities. Though my comments today are focused on my community, I think my worries and concerns are applicable to many rail communities from Montana to Longview.

Southwest Washington and Camas have grown and prospered because people view our area and community as a desirable place to live. People will not come to Camas if they think we're going to become just another stretch of industrial corridor for dirty coal.

Our downtown is the heart of our community and it has become one of Camas's key attractions for both residents and visitors. It is a wonderful area to shop, eat, and get together. It is our gathering place. Camas has worked hard to revitalize the area - we've built a new library, made street improvements, and supported an active downtown business group. The mile long coal trains under this proposal must pass through downtown Camas only blocks from where we hold our farmers market, our community fair, our first Friday get-togethers, our parade.

Downtown Camas is beautiful and walkable and it's one of the main reasons we've invested in the area and are working on energy efficient infill redevelopment projects. But these projects and our investments are at risk due to this export proposal. Our community should not have to endure the economic and health harms from this wholly unnecessary and pollution generating coal export proposal. We should not be wasting our valuable industrial infrastructure and sacrifice our community health for a shortsighted, risky proposal to export a 19<sup>th</sup> century commodity.

Camas, Longview, and our other NW communities have made great efforts to become healthy, livable, and desirable communities -- great places to raise kids, great places to retire to. We deserve better than this export proposal. Thank you.

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