



Washington State Senate

PO Box 40435, Olympia, WA 98504-0435

Senator Tim Sheldon

35th Legislative District

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Maia Bellon
WA State Department of Ecology
Millennium Bulk Terminals - Longview EIS
c/o ICF Internation
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550
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Senator Tim Sheldon
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November 13, 2013

Maia Bellon
WA State Department of Ecology
Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview EIS
c/o ICF International
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550
Seattle, WA 98104

Department of Ecology:

As a Democratic Senator from the 35th Legislative District, I have long been committed to the economic development of our state, by bringing private sector jobs back to our community. The construction of the multi-commodity export facilities proposed for Washington State will help put our state back to work. It is my hope that your department will be able to conduct an individualized review, as you have in the past, that will protect our economy, while making these projects a reality.

These new terminals have the potential to make a significant impact on our economy – not just here in Washington, but throughout our region. They will allow us to ship American coal to growing international markets, but they are much more than that. Any time we expand a state's port capacity and facilities, we are contributing to the infrastructure that can handle anything – from agriculture to finished products. The Millennium Bulk Terminals project in particular provides the region with an opportunity to grow exports of agriculture, timber, and other bulk projects – an opportunity that won't exist without the investment to transport coal as well. By expanding our port system, we will have the facilities to ship Washington's crops and products to huge new markets. We will compete more effectively with growing international ports, especially those directly to our north in Canada. And we will boost the economy and create thousands of new jobs – many of which will be good, family-wage labor jobs that many of today's unemployed blue-collar workers need.

I understand – and echo – concerns about our environment. I am confident, however, that these ports will be built and connected via rail in an environmentally effective and sustainable manner. Our state, however, already exports five percent of our country's coal, and we have been transporting coal through our region for over a hundred years. Our industry is an environmental leader adopting new green technologies and moving goods uses significantly less energy than truck.

I hope that, despite the growing political pressure, our state's leadership can resist the urge to erect regulatory roadblocks, like the proposed reviews for similar terminals. The recent announcement for the two year, global review of the Gateway Pacific project is, in my opinion, a dangerous precedent for many Washington exporters. By reviewing the local, national, and international effects of coal exports, the state would be setting the precedent that any new export facility, from agriculture to airplanes, could be subject to the same global review. This would not meaningfully enhance the existing review process; instead, this expansion would burden existing exporters, ward off future investments in the region, and delay job creating investments in our state. As a trade dependent region, we simply cannot afford this precedent.

We would benefit significantly from new ports in this state. We are a great state, and we are capable of great things – including resolving this issue without turning our back on the opportunities it brings. We urge you to work together to find a solution that meets the needs of all groups involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Sheldon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Senator Tim Sheldon
35th District