

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northwest Elected Leaders Unite in Telling the Army Corps of Engineers to Protect Local Communities

Concerns grow as coal export plans threaten to move forward without oversight

Washougal, WA - Nearly 90 elected officials have declared that the time has come for the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to conduct a comprehensive review of all six of the coal export terminal proposals in the Northwest region. If properly executed, the review would mandate a structured public testimony period and a thorough analysis of all affected communities from mine to rail and from port to plant.

Raising concerns about potential impacts to his city, Washougal Mayor, Sean Guard said, "Washougal, WA is a community that is literally split by the rail lines and home to five at-grade crossings. The increased rail traffic has the potential to significantly increase the wait times that our motorists currently experience."

Mayor Guard added, "We are also interested to know what, if any, health impacts we might experience from the transportation of coal itself. While we have asked a number of questions to get more clarity, we have yet to receive definitive answers to those questions."

Despite calls from elected officials on all levels, the Environmental Protection Agency, and tens of thousands of local residents, the Army Corps of Engineers has not yet committed to an area-wide analysis.

"The plan to ship some 44 million tons of coal a year through the coal shipping terminal slated to be built here in Longview, WA will have significant impacts on our community," said Longview City Council Member, Tom Hutchinson.

"Our communities deserve a comprehensive and cumulative evaluation of all of the potential impacts of these coal export proposals in order for us to better understand and mitigate these threats," added Hutchinson. "Not only do we have an obligation to protect our residents, but our existing businesses and industry as well."

The risks associated with each individual proposal stretch far and wide, and are increasingly recognized by elected officials across party lines. Regardless of party majority, several city councils around the region have unanimously passed resolutions, all voicing the same general message: the Army Corps of Engineers must protect the public by bringing the full extent of these coal export threats to light.

“Coal trains rumbling through our town, day and night, would have a negative impact on business and quality of life for Mosier Residents,” said Mayor Andrea Rogers of Mosier, OR.

Mayor Rogers added, “The cumulative impacts of coal exports need to be thoroughly studied, all the way from the mining operations to the pollution that would return to us from Asia. That is why the City of Mosier has called for a full evaluation with a public comment period, so we can look at the big picture impacts of all six of these proposals.”

All elected officials quoted in this release are available for comment and their contact information is listed above.

Background: As coal companies attempts to export up to 150 million tons of coal from West Coast ports; elected leaders from around the region have stood up for local families by signing and sending letters to the Army Corps of Engineers, passing, and signing resolutions, and publicly speaking out for the need of a comprehensive review of all coal export proposals. Below is the ever-growing list of those demanding a comprehensive review for local communities.

Patty Murray, U.S. Senate
Adam Smith, U.S. Representative
Jim McDermott, U.S. Representative
John Kitzhaber, Oregon Governor
Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Washington State Senator
Hans Dunshee, Washington State Representative
Zack Hudgins, Washington State Representative
Mitch Greenlick, Oregon State Representative
Dow Constantine, King County, WA Executive
Larry Phillips, King County, WA Council
Jeff Cogen, Multnomah County, OR Council Chair
Sandra Romero, Thurston County, WA Commissioner, District 2
Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County, WA Commissioner, District 3
Cathy Wolfe, Thurston County, WA Commissioner, District 1
Sam Adams, Mayor, City of Portland, OR
Mike McGinn, Mayor of Seattle, WA
Stephen H. Buxbaum, Mayor of Olympia, WA
Sean Guard, Mayor of Washougal, WA
Andrea Rogers, Mayor of Mosier, OR
Jack Weiss, Bellingham, WA City Council
Stan Snapp, Bellingham, WA City Council
Gene Knutson, Bellingham, WA City Council
Michael Plunkett, Edmonds, WA City Council
Strom Peterson, Edmonds, WA City Council
Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Edmonds, WA City Council
Diane Buckshnis, Edmonds, WA City Council
Joan Bloom, Edmonds, WA City Council

Frank Yamamoto, Edmonds, WA City Council
Lora Petso, Edmonds, WA City Council
Mike O'Brien, Seattle, WA City Council
Sally Bagshaw, Seattle, WA City Council
Sally Clark, Seattle, WA City Council
Richard Conlin, Seattle, WA City Council
Bruce Harrell, Seattle, WA City Council
Tim Burgess, Seattle, WA City Council
Nick Licata, Seattle, WA City Council
Tom Rasmussen, Seattle, WA City Council
Jean Godden, Seattle, WA City Council
Richard Emery, Mukilteo, WA City Council
Jennifer Gregerson, Mukilteo, WA City Council
Randy Lord, Mukilteo, WA City Council
Connie Jo Freeman, Washougal, WA City Council
Paul Greenlee, Washougal, WA City Council
Joyce Lindsay, Washougal, WA City Council
Kathy Fitzpatrick, Mosier, OR City Council
Peny Wallace, Mosier, OR City Council
Hector Kent, Mosier, OR City Council
Steve McKibben, Mosier, OR City Council
Tim Mortenson, Mosier, OR City Council President
Don McDermott, Chair, Dallesport, WA Community Council
Linda Dietzman, Camas, WA City Council
Moli S Thomas, Stevenson, WA City Council
Monica Masco, Stevenson, WA City Council
Julie Mayfield, Stevenson, WA City Council
Amy Weissfeld, Stevenson, WA City Council
Bob Jaffe, Missoula, MT City Council
Marilyn Marler, Missoula, MT City Council
Dave Strohmaier, Missoula, MT City Council
Jason Wiener, Missoula, MT City Council
Jon Wilkins, Missoula, MT City Council
Cynthia Wolken, Missoula, MT City Council
Katherine Haque-Hausrath, Helena, MT Commission
Dick Thweatt, Helena, MT Commission
Mat Elsaesser, Helena, MT Commission
Carrie Logan, Sandpoint, ID Commission
Jamie Brunner, Sandpoint, ID Commission
Justin Schuck, Sandpoint, ID Commission
Aaron Qualls, Sandpoint, ID Commission
Thomas Eddy, Sandpoint, ID Commission
Shelby Ragnstad, Sandpoint, ID Commission
Mike Wallin, Longview, WA City Council
Tom Hutchinson, Longview, WA City Council
Ken Botero, Longview, WA City Council

Don Jensen, Longview, WA City Council
Mary Jane Melink, Longview, WA City Council
Chet Makinster, Longview, WA City Council
Dennis Weber, Longview, WA City Council
Ron Lawson, Lacey, WA City Council
Cynthia Pratt, Lacey, WA City Council
Julie Hankins, Olympia, WA City Council
Anne Blair, Bainbridge Island, WA City Council
Sarah Blossom, Bainbridge Island, WA City Council
Steve Bonkowski, Bainbridge Island, WA City Council
Kirsten Hytopoulos, Bainbridge Island, WA City Council
Debbi Lester, Bainbridge Island, WA City Council
Bob Scales, Bainbridge Island, WA City Council
David Ward, Bainbridge Island, WA City Council
Steve Tuchscherer, Roseburg, OR City Council
Joan Cathey, Tumwater, WA City Council