

# POWER PAST COAL

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## **STATEMENT ON RAIL AMERICA DROPPING GRAYS HARBOR, WA COAL EXPORT TERMINAL PLANS**

“We are so glad to see Grays Harbor embrace a better path forward than a coal export terminal. We agree with Rail America that there are other opportunities which will create more jobs and more enduring economic benefits for the community. It’s clear that the costs of coal export are too high and there are better ways to prosper,” said Becky Kelley for the Power Past Coal coalition.

“We’ll continue to keep a close eye on all of the coal companies’ proposals. We believe that as other communities across the Northwest take a closer look at coal export, they’ll come to the same conclusion as Grays Harbor: there are too many impacts and too many costs from coal export. We can do better. In order for people to understand the impacts on their communities from the remaining proposals, the Army Corps of Engineers needs to do a full analysis of the combined impacts of *all* those proposals, including places like Spokane which faces the prospect of so many new coal trains,” Kelley concluded.

More on the breaking news [here](#).

The Grays Harbor news comes as Kinder Morgan recently announced delaying its plans to file for permits at the proposed coal export terminal in at Port Westward in Oregon. In May, Portland General Electric (PGE) objected to a Kinder Morgan proposal to ship up to 30 million tons of coal per year to Port Westward, adjacent to PGE’s natural gas power plant. As reported in the *South County Spotlight*, PGE was concerned that coal dust and traffic congestion could impair the operation of its natural gas power plant at Port Westward.

There are close to 300 health professionals, 88 faith leaders, and 400 local businesses (mostly from smaller rail line communities) that have either voiced concern or come out against coal export off the West Coast. A [number of elected officials and agencies](#) (now approximately 90 local elected officials) – most recently Sen. Murray and Congressmen Smith and McDermott -- have either come out in opposition or have raised concerns about the issue. For example, the letter from Port of Skagit, WA says “the additional trains required to supply the new (Cherry Point) terminal with coal will further obstruct traffic, and have a negative economic impact in our community leading to a net loss of jobs.”

**POWER PAST COAL** is an alliance of health, environmental, clean-energy, faith and community groups working to stop coal export off the West Coast. [www.powerpastcoal.org](http://www.powerpastcoal.org)