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## **STATEMENTS ON THE START OF ARMY CORPS ANNOUNCING COAL TERMINAL SCOPING PROCESS AT CHERRY POINT IN WASHINGTON**

*Today, the Army Corps announced the start of the [“scoping” process](#) for the proposed coal export terminal at Cherry Point, north of Bellingham, WA. To date, 40,000 residents have written to Washington State Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark opposing coal export, 27 cities, counties and ports, over 160 elected officials – including U.S. Senator Murray, 573 health professionals, over 400 local businesses and 220 faith leaders, and some Northwest Tribes (including [expected announcement by the Lummi](#) this afternoon) that have either voiced concern or come out against coal export off the West Coast. The following are statements on the scoping process starting.*

### **Dr. Frank James, family physician and public health doctor in Bellingham, WA:**

"We know there would be both direct and indirect costs from the increased exposure to coal dust and diesel exhaust from this proposal. Those costs are too great for Bellingham, Whatcom County, the state and the region. These trains would go through the most populated parts of our state, including downtown Bellingham, Seattle and Spokane and the rail-line communities in between. What would this mean to emergency responders, safety along the rail line, and exposure to toxic pollution in our communities? Citizens need to weigh in and make sure our state agencies and the Army Corps know that the costs are not worth it."

### **Crina Hoyer, Executive Director for RE Sources for Sustainable Communities and Power Past Coal coalition:**

“There’s a reason coal use is flat-lining in the U.S.: because coal is a fossil fuel of the past that takes us backwards, and we know can innovate and accelerate clean energy solutions. Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel by far—and it’s exactly why SSA Marine scrubs the word coal off their website and hides it in their paperwork and testimonies and wants coal barely mentioned in the federal register notice. We need to call it on the carpet: if approved, this would be the largest coal export terminal in North America. Exporting coal off the West Coast would mean transporting a dirty and dangerous combustible fuel in open rail cars through our communities and business corridors, and on massive cargo ships through the Salish Sea. The state and the Army Corps needs to do a thorough review of the proposed Cherry Point coal terminal and the Army Corps also needs to conduct an area-wide EIS to look at the cumulative impact of the five proposed coal export terminals in Oregon and Washington. We can do better.”

### **Ben Stuckart, City of Spokane, City Council President**

“The Spokane City Council previously unanimously voted to have our voice heard in the building of coal export facilities. Today’s announcement that a public hearing will held in Spokane as part of the Army Corps’ evaluation process for the Cherry Point terminal proposal, is a big, but necessary win for Spokane. This announcement is only one piece of the puzzle in protecting our beautiful city. Now the Army Corps needs to commit to evaluating all of the coal export proposals, because Spokane has much to lose, and little to gain by allowing 62 new coal trains per day through our town. Such an increase would harm our



air quality, transportation systems, and emergency response. Today is the first step in the right direction for Spokane in a lengthy process.”

**Steve Sundquist, former** Russell Investment Group executive and former Seattle School Board president:

“The choice here is stark. Washington has a long and proud history of economic innovation, and already supports thousands of high-tech and clean energy jobs. We should invest in the future – and not massively increase the coal industry’s place in our economy. Coal export would undermine the region’s brand as a proof point for sustainable prosperity. Business leaders and folks concerned with the region’s economic future need to speak out and participate in this process to send the message that the Northwest’s future is one of broadly-shared economic prosperity built on a clean energy economy.”