

POWER PAST COAL

communities against coal export | powerpastcoal.org

We are Washington business leaders who stand together to oppose the massive proposals to turn our state into the continent's largest center for coal exports. Devoting our rail lines, shorelines and waterways to coal exports is not a good strategy for our economy or the environment. It makes no sense for us to begin coal export at the same time that we have finally committed the state to phase out all coal-fired power generation. We urge our elected leaders to require a full analysis of all environmental, economic and health impacts and to look beyond the impacts at the specific terminal sites. When we look at all these impacts, it is clear that they should say no to these proposals.

The coal export terminals proposed for Whatcom County, Longview and Grays Harbor would have very significant impacts on our communities. The benefits from these facilities would be confined to a few companies and locations while the impacts would be felt across the state, region, and globe. If permitted, these terminals would:

- Dramatically increase rail traffic, splitting many communities in two. If built, these facilities would require more than 40 trains per day, each 1 ½ miles long (upwards of 20 trains a day in Puget Sound). The traffic would increase delays and congestion, impede emergency services, and reduce the ability of other shippers to use the rail lines for more valuable products. This would add over 8,000 coal trains per year on Washington's rail system.
- Create demands for public spending on rail crossings, track expansions and other infrastructure. These demands would require increased federal, state or local taxes at a time when public budgets are facing historic pressures.
- Increase air, water pollution, and noise from coal trains and terminals that would lower property values, threaten public health, and degrade vital ecosystems that are critical to the Washington and Northwest economies. It would also threaten businesses that depend on healthy rivers and waterways, as well as iconic species including salmon and orcas.
- Encourage Asian economies to lock in more coal fired power plants and prolong their transition to cleaner and more efficient alternatives. The result would be more global warming pollution, impacting the Northwest with more forest fires, hotter temperatures, more flooding, ocean acidification and lost agriculture, forestry and fishery revenues. More coal burning in Asia means more toxic pollution, especially mercury, travelling across the Pacific to contaminate Washington's air and waters.

- Undercut Washington's brand as a center of the clean economy.

The choice is stark. We can either harness our greatest natural resource – Washington's know-how and ingenuity – to develop a strong local clean-energy economy; or we can allow out-of-state and foreign coal companies and their partners to use Washington as a gateway to sell coal to Asia. 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.

As business leaders in the great State of Washington, we are proud to join a broad coalition of civic leaders, local governments, health care professionals, faith groups, environmental and energy organizations, and many others in the effort to move Washington beyond coal. We urge our elected leaders to require a full analysis of all environmental, economic and health impacts from these proposals. When all the impacts are on the table, we are confident that they will reject these proposals.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

___ I will display No Coal Export decal in my business window

___ Please use my business name in your publicity materials

___ Let me know about an upcoming public hearing in my area

___ Provide me with petition postcards for my customers

___ Provide me with No Coal Export Business letters so I can enlist my fellow business owners