



Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club

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JACK LOUWS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear County Executive Louws,

On April 10th, the membership of the Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club unanimously passed a motion to adopt the enclosed Resolution. This Resolution was initiated by the Club membership, rather than by any specific member of our Executive Board. Also included in the motion was clear wording about communicating our concerns to via this Resolution. We realize that the complexity of this issue is overwhelming, but trust that you will work with the Whatcom County Council and deliberate carefully and cautiously when making decisions that have long-ranging implications. Thank you for your service to Whatcom County.

Regards,

Linda Winter Pace, President
Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club

A Resolution Regarding the Proposed Gateway Pacific Coal Terminal at Cherry Point

1. WHEREAS evidence demonstrates the overwhelming negative impacts of coal mining
2. and combustion on public health;
- 3.
4. WHEREAS coal burning has been widely recognized as a principle cause and
5. accelerator of climate change;
- 6.
7. WHEREAS the risk to human health and safety from massive coal shipments across
8. our state and through our communities is significant;
- 9.
10. WHEREAS coal contains toxic heavy metals-including mercury, arsenic and lead, and
11. exposure to these toxic heavy metals in high concentrations is linked to cancer and birth defects;
- 12.
13. WHEREAS diesel exhaust emissions from train engines will increase with the amount of coal being
14. transported and this exhaust contains more than 40 toxic substances, including arsenic,
15. benzene and formaldehyde which can cause serious health problems;
- 16.
17. WHEREAS coal is commonly transported via open top rail cars without covers and
18. according to BNSF (rail carrier), each coal car loses at least 500 pounds of coal in transit;
- 19.
20. WHEREAS new coal export terminals are expected to result in an increase in coal train
21. Traffic in Washington State of about 18 additional trains per day, and each approximately 1.5 miles long,
22. which would inhibit the movement of emergency, commercial and private vehicles, pedestrians and other
23. traffic, and would limit commercial and private vehicles, pedestrians and other traffic, and would limit
24. commercial and recreational access to waterways near rail lines;
- 25.
26. WHEREAS the proposed construction and utilization of multiple proposed massive
27. coal expert terminals in Washington State pose significant threats to public health and
28. safety, threaten fragile marine ecosystems as well as marine-based local economies; and
- 29.
30. WHEREAS gigantic capsized bulk coal carriers have poor safety records and will have
31. destructive effects on the marine ecosystems at the terminals, in Puget Sound, Bellingham Bay,
32. in the Straits of Juan De Fuca, where they would compete in an already crowded marine environment,
33. threatening the safe passage of large vessel traffic including oil tankers and cruise ships,
34. in addition to the smaller fishing vessels and pleasure craft which use our waterways
35. for commerce and enjoyment;
- 36.
37. WHEREAS Washington State has been a leader in protecting the environment, air and water quality;
- 38.
39. WHEREAS Washington State has been a national leader in creating clean energy jobs and
40. innovating, developing, demonstrating, and marketing clean energy technologies and
41. practices that promote sustainable global economic development;
- 42.
43. WHEREAS coal export promotes the most destructive and unsustainable energy
44. development practices; and
- 45.
46. WHEREAS most jobs created by this project would be temporary construction jobs, creating the opposite
47. of a stable and sustainable economy, and while the estimated permanent jobs created by this project

48. would number 2 to 4 hundred, the project may have a net negative offset to the currently projected
49. 10,00 jobs that will come to Washington State in the next 10 years if environmentally degrading
50. projects such as the one described here are avoided;
51.
52. WHEREAS fossil fuels burned anywhere in the world contribute to global climate change, and China,
53. the planned destination for the millions of metric tons of coal, is already a frontrunner in the production
54. of solar energy products and should be encouraged to use sustainable energy practices; and
55.
56. WHEREAS one purpose of government is to regulate commerce to protect the environment, health,
57. and livelihoods of our people, as clearly stated in the Washington State Democratic Platform, while
58. the proposed terminal and its associated activities would make large profits for a few large corporations
59. at the expense of the people of Washington State;
60.
61. WHEREAS the Lummi Nation knows the lands and waters of Xwe'chi'eXen (known as Cherry Point) a
62. to be sacred lands and waters associated with their Creation Story and these lands are also the ancestral
63. burial grounds for their People; and
64.
65. WHEREAS the urban and industrial occupation and use of those historical lands and waters
66. will destroy the natural remains in those tribal burial grounds and cause unrecoverable losses; and
67.
68. WHEREAS the First Nations' right to reserve the use and protection of the Cherry Point lands, fresh water
69. and ocean nearby and the natural products and resources which may be derived from those places
70. is a right that is guaranteed by conscience, treaty and law;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club opposes any and all proposals for the export of coal from all parts of the Pacific Northwest, particularly from Cherry Point, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club supports economic growth that does not jeopardize Washington State's commitment to fight the serious impacts of climate change.

ADOPTED by the Whatcom County Democratic Women's Club on the 10th day of April, 2014.

Signed by Linda Pace, President



Witnessed by Judy Anderson, Vice President

