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May 7, 2012

Whatcom County Planning and Development Services  
Tyler Schroeder, Planning Manager

Regarding the Notice of Application for Gateway Pacific Terminals

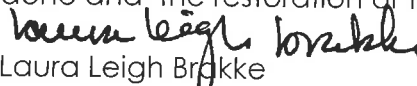
I would like my comments taken into consideration and to become part of the Public record in this matter.

I do not think you can accept this application as "complete" in light of the facts;

- SSA Marine never followed through on the agreements to perform studies in anticipation of this bulk shipping terminal. Those studies relating to the environment specific to Cherry Point and the Herring have yet to be done. These are needed as baseline studies and must be undertaken prior to any land or shoreline permits being considered.
- There was illegal clearing and wetland disturbance on the property this project is going to impact. The way the illegal cutting of trees and filling of some wetlands was handled by the State and Local agencies was not satisfactory to further the Goals the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Designation mandates.
- The application consistently misrepresents this Bulk Commodity Mutli-modal Shipping Terminal's purpose. It is no secret this is for coal and more coal, until the coal runs out. Everyone knows you cannot ship wheat out of the same terminal, using the same equipment as coal. Would you want to eat wheat contaminated by coal? This terminal has no other purpose or contracts other than coal at this time. They need to eliminate any references to other natural resources for this planned terminal.
- Effects of increasing ship traffic through the years on the health of Puget Sound has not been thoroughly studied and documented. More and larger ships will effect the animal life, fish, shorebirds, herring, and marine environment. SSA does not own the surface of the water. They do not have a guarantee of use of this Public property. Money will not buy more salmon when they are gone.

This terminal is incompatible with the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve designation's purpose and goals. The risks with this project are too great a threat to our Salish Sea and the benefits will go to a few private interests.

Do not accept this Application until all the prior agreed upon studies have been done and the restoration of the illegal clearing is completed and thriving.

  
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