King County

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The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Brigadier General Anthony C. Funkhouser
Commander and Division Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Northwestern Division
P.O. Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Colonel John W. Eisenhauer
Commander and District Engineer
Portland District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

Colonel Bruce A. Estok
Commander
Seattle District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy, Brigadier General Funkhouser, Colonel Eisenhauer, and Colonel Estok:

I continue to closely follow proposals for coal export to Asia through ports in Washington and Oregon. As of this June, the three remaining proposals include the Gateway Pacific terminal north of Bellingham, the Millennium Bulk Terminals proposal in Longview, and the Morrow Pacific Terminal in Boardman, Oregon. Collectively, these proposals are estimated to result in hauling and export of 100 million metric tons of coal per year.

The scope and magnitude of these proposals is unprecedented for our region. The greenhouse gas emissions from burning 100 million metric tons of coal are twice that produced in all of Washington State. Up to eighteen mile-and-a-half coal trains traversing King County per day would cause significant delays at each rail crossing, affecting traffic, transit, and commerce.

King County has concerns about the potentially significant impacts of these proposals on health, environment, traffic, and economic development. These issues require a thoughtful and comprehensive approach. We expect that individual Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

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will be required for all three of the proposed terminals to thoroughly analyze these impacts and identify the scope and cost of actions necessary to mitigate likely impacts.

At the same time, the impacts of these projects on the environment (including climate change, water quality, air quality, and fish habitat), health, traffic, and economic development are complex, geographically wide-ranging, and interconnected across our northwest region. Consistent with my earlier comments on the Gateway Pacific Terminal, I strongly encourage the United States Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a comprehensive, area-wide and cumulative Environmental Impacts Statement for the three remaining coal terminal proposals.

An area-wide analysis would allow for more thorough and efficient analysis of similar impacts from the terminals and associated rail and barge transport of coal and provide a fuller picture of cumulative and related impacts on traffic, economic development, health, the environment, and treaty fishing rights. An area-wide analysis would also support public engagement in identifying the impacts of a proposed terminal that may be hundreds of miles away but will trigger very real impacts in local communities along the rail line. Only through a programmatic EIS can the cumulative impacts of these related proposals thoroughly be analyzed and understood. As a nation we should also be examining for the full range of economic and environmental costs of the current coal leasing system on the health and environment on our local communities and our collective efforts to reduce climate pollution.

We are at the precipice of decisions that will determine whether we will continue to expand our reliance on extraction and export of a polluting, finite resource, or invest in a clean energy future that attracts innovation, long-term investment, and creation of sustainable job opportunities. An area-wide impact analysis will give the public and decision-makers essential information to fully consider the interrelated and cumulative impacts of the proposed coal terminals across the Northwest region.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

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King County Executive

cc: The Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior
Nancy Sutley, White House Council on Environmental Quality
The Honorable Patty Murray, United States Senate
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, United States Senate
The Honorable Suzan DelBene, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rick Larsen, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Doc Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jim McDermott, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Dave Reichert, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Adam Smith, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Denny Heck, U.S. House of Represesentatives
The Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor, State of Washington
The Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor, State of Oregon
The Honorable Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands
The Honorable Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Executive
The Honorable John Lovick, Snohomish County Executive
The Honorable Jack Loews, Whatcom County Executive
The Honorable Timothy Ballew II, Chairman, Lummi Nation
The Honorable Virginia Cross, Chair, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
The Honorable Leonard Forsman, Chairman, Suquamish Tribe
The Honorable Brian Cladoosby, Chairman, Swinomish Tribe
The Honorable Melvin Sheldon, Jr., Chairman, Tulalip Tribes
The Honorable Pete Lewis, Mayor, City of Auburn
The Honorable Suzette Cooke, Mayor, City of Kent
The Honorable Denis Law, Mayor, City of Renton
The Honorable Mike McGinn, Mayor, City of Seattle
The Honorable Keith McGlashan, Mayor, City of Shoreline
The Honorable Jim Haggerton, City of Tukwila
Maia Bellon, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)
Josh Baldi, Northwest Regional Director, DOE
Dennis McLerran, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Seattle
Joni Earl, Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit
Bob Drewel, Executive Director, Puget Sound Regional Council
Craig T. Kenworthy, Executive Director, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
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