

Bruce Hoefft

Please deny Millennium's application for the 401 water-quality certification.

I would like to speak on behalf of jobs in Washington State that rely on high-quality water. The jobs of shell fishermen who live on the coast, who own businesses they've inherited from their parents, and which employ their children. Over the past decade these shellfish farmers have found that oyster larva have failed to survive in our waters. Procedures their families have used for decades don't work anymore. The baby oysters die. Many have been able to stay in business by employing labs in Hawaii to raise the larva, then flying them back here, and seeding the oyster beds with spat once they are old enough to survive in our coastal waters. We know that the cause of the oyster death is ocean acidification, produced by higher levels of CO₂ in our atmosphere. And though there are many sources of CO₂, coal burning is a major contributor. As our waters become increasingly acidic, more marine life will die.

Sea level rise is happening. It's being measured. We see the effects. The only question is how much and how soon? Please consider the number of jobs that will be lost as sea-level-rise floods existing facilities, and threatens operations that have been engineered for existing sea levels. OK. I guess that's not so much water quality as it is water quantity. But it's still jobs, and is still happening.

Please consider the thousands of existing long-term jobs in Washington State, which are threatened by out-of-state efforts to promote coal exports. Please consider how much additional acidification 44 million tons of coal per year proposed to move through the Millennium facility will produce. Please consider the decades of pollution that will occur if the Longview terminal is built. Please consider how much a cheap source of US coal will discourage China from developing and deploying newer and cleaner sources of energy. Please consider what the costs of decades of CO₂ and mercury pollution will be to Washington businesses that depend on a healthy ocean. Who is going to pay for developing new jobs for those whose livelihood is stolen when the ocean is too acidic to sustain oysters, and then crabs, and mussels, shrimp, scallops, clams and fish?

The jobs are real. The threat is real. Please deny Millennium's 401 certification application. It's a bad deal for Washington.

Thank you for your consideration. Bruce Hoefft 508 N 11th St. Tacoma WA 98403