

Washington State Farm Bureau

Attached, please find our comments.



975 Carpenter Rd NE, Suite 301, Lacey, WA 98516

July 26, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the more than 47,000 member families of the Washington Farm Bureau, I write this letter to express our support of the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals project in Cowlitz County and request that final approval be granted for this project to move forward with operation.

The Washington Farm Bureau takes its role of representing local agriculture seriously. We seek to work together with all policymakers, regulators and industries to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement that can promote a positive well-being in Washington and particularly a thriving agricultural sector.

We cannot stress enough how critical this project is to our state. While many believe Millennium will only assist in coal transportation, the reality is anything but. Millennium will deliver good family wage jobs and will enhance our state's agricultural and manufacturing economies as well. Next to manufacturing, agriculture is the largest, most trade-dependent segment of Washington's economy.

Private investments – like the Millennium project – in Washington's port and rail infrastructure is desperately needed, and will guarantee growers and shippers can offer their goods to existing markets, as well as untapped ones – regardless of whether their commodity is being shipped down the shore to California or thousands of miles away. Millennium would allow us to bring products including grain, corn and wheat to markets that we otherwise couldn't reach, translating into substantial economic support that our industry desperately needs.

If approved, our state will see \$680 million in private investments, over 2,900 direct and indirect jobs, and \$37 million in state tax revenues. Our agricultural community—and Washington as a whole—has been waiting for years for these kind of economic opportunities, and that is why we call on the Corps to grant this important project its final approval. Failure to approve Millennium will create consequences our state cannot afford.

Finally, this project has been in the approval queue for over five years in large part due to foot-dragging by regulators with environmental agendas. Yet the reality is this project is designed to meet Washington's environmental standards as evidenced by both the state and federal EIS documents. Instead, we are witnessing an unfair and lengthy review process influenced by inappropriate political agendas that have delayed the growth of vital trade and exports and jeopardized our region's economic progress.

Regardless of coal's place in the global energy economy, here in Washington, we need to expand our trade capacity so that we can carry on our region's legacy as a vital trade gateway. We ask that you approve this permit for the Millennium project and approve this project as soon as possible. Thank you for your timely action on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Stuhlmiller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

John Stuhlmiller
Chief Executive Officer