

Lloyd Johnston

I do not believe that there is any issue of public welfare included in the proposed Millennium Bulk Coal Export Terminal for Longview, Washington. The small number of local jobs that would be provided by this terminal are far overshadowed by the damage that will result from the transportation of vast quantities of coal overland, down the Columbia River and across the Pacific Ocean. The the pollution of land and water by coal spills and dust will be accompanied by degradation of the mining area, air pollution in the destination countries (which will ultimately affect the entire earth) and production of great amounts of carbon dioxide when burned. The world needs to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, not increase it, if we have any chance of halting the increasingly obvious effects of global climate change.

Many other nations are coming to the realization that converting to renewable energy sources and away from the use of fossil fuels is the only hope for preserving the livability of the earth. The market for coal in the US and worldwide is shrinking and will be shrinking at a faster rate as time goes on. Now is not the time to prop up the moribund coal industry. Do not allow the Millennium Bulk Terminal to proceed.