

Stuart Pennington

I am originally from the Oregon Coast where the false choice between the environment and jobs was used to devastating effect. I watched the area I grew up in, Coos Bay/North Bend, go from the world's largest lumber shipping port to the Appalachia of the West Coast. It was an area where people had it all - jobs, a future, families, generations doing better than the last one, and great environment. That was the way it was until self-proclaimed environmentalists from the East Coast started pushing their brand of environmentalism that said you could not have good paying jobs and a clean environment. The people who do the heavy lifting in America, like longshoremen, loggers, towboat operators, truck drivers, and the list goes on, are some of the biggest proponents and recreational users of the environment that these carpetbaggers from the East seek to put off limits to the rest of us. Most of them don't know an old growth from a hole in the ground or eel grass from blue grass. Industry and the employees of industry have made the world a better place over the past century and a quarter. We have learned more and become better stewards of this great land of ours. The environmentalists from the East have played a very small role in this improvement, but with a devastating effect on the ability of regular American like my friends and me to make a decent living. I support the Millennium Bulk Terminals project. It will provide jobs that pay taxes, support other jobs, and provide funding for schools, government, and a better environment. Don't succumb to the idea that having good jobs or a good environment is an either/or choice - it is a false choice. You can have both with good stewardship. Nobody wants to harm the environment.