

# IAM District 751

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to voice my support for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminal project in Longview, Washington. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to comment on this critical infrastructure project that would not only create an abundance of jobs and grow the economy within the Pacific Northwest, but also contribute to the state's ability to remain competitive.

As president of the Machinists Lodge 751, I know the importance of developing infrastructure and trade within the state. For decades, our union has been involved in the political and legislative arena to advocate for our members and working people. This is no different. My 32,030 members, their families, and our state economy are dependent on skilled trade jobs that come with these types of projects.

It is estimated that during construction, the proposed Millennium terminal would create 2,650 jobs and 300 permanent jobs will subsequently remain to run terminal operations. In addition, this project is expected to create an additional \$302 million in wages during construction and bring in \$65 million annually after the terminal is built. In a political climate where growing jobs and the economy is the ultimate end goal, it is hard to see how this project has yet to be approved by regulators.

The permit for the Millennium Bulk Terminal has been pending in the Department of Ecology for over five years. Five years in which the state has been delaying valuable jobs and economic growth in communities that need it – this is unacceptable. Despite the clear benefits of investing, regulators in Washington have continued to delay this project. Not only is this a detriment to the workers, but it also signals to future project financiers that Washington is neither a good place to invest in nor conduct business. If we continue to delay this project, the economic consequences for the labor community will be too much to bear.

The project has also gone through rigorous processes to ensure it meets the state and federal guidelines necessary to protect the environment. The 530-acre site in which the project will be built has not been used for over 10 years. Millennium has also dedicated man power to cleaning up the area around the future facility. Not only are they redeveloping this unused eyesore, but they are determined to maintain upkeep on the land and the extra income will help to preserve and upgrade infrastructure within the community.

Throughout this process, it seems as if leaders in Washington are putting aside the best interests of workers all over the state. This is very disheartening. It is the hope of my members and I that state legislators understand just how beneficial this project is for everyone involved. It will create thousands of new jobs and raise millions in tax revenue for the state to put towards projects like infrastructure development, education, and social programs.

While I appreciate the opportunity to leave a comment on this project, the lengthy review time is setting a dangerous standard of how projects are considered within Washington. Machinists Lodge 751 supports the Millennium Bulk Terminal project and we are patiently awaiting its approval.

Thank you,

Jonathan Holden

President, Machinist Lodge 751