

Hi, My name's Claire Darling. I'm a massage therapist in Beaverton, OR and also happen to be an athletic person who spends a lot of time on the water.

I kayak and windsurf in and around the Columbia River, and on windy days (which are pretty consistent there) I've been literally pelted with coal sand from those trains. As it rains down on me it also piles into the river and water table to the point that (while I spend a lot of time in the Gorge) I tend not to trust the water there. Knowing what I do from extensive studies into human health this constant dumping of toxins into our recreation areas and the water tables along the Gorge is incredibly disturbing. This is to say nothing of the farms and orchards (some of which strive and claim to be organic) which are affected as well!

I feel for the people living along the route not only because of the pollution they have to deal with, and the danger that increased coal dust on the tracks is likely to cause other disasters like the oil train explosion that happened in Mosier, OR last year, but because as knowledge of these toxins in the water spreads, it actually sends out a lot of negative stigma in the windsurfing and kiteboarding community, which consists largely of health conscious seasonal visitors from out of town who represent a fair amount of the yearly income for a lot of rural Gorge towns!

If you build a terminal at the end of the route not only will it increase pollution along the Gorge and the rest of the coal chute, but the increase in wind-borne contaminants which will end up in the water at the terminal site will inevitably be far worse! It cannot be safe for a water permit by its very nature.

I treat people every day whose bodies are traumatized by environmental toxins. Perhaps if I was in this profession for the money, and my financial bottom line was my only concern (as seems to be the case with the short-sighted people pushing this proposal) I would be happy to see this terminal built. But my bottom line is to see my clients heal, and allowing their water to be poisoned is NOT the way to do that! Please deny this permit! Thank you, Claire Darling, LMT