

Certified Electrical Workers of Washington

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critical infrastructure project and I am writing in support of the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals (Millennium) project in Longview Washington. The project is critically important to not only the future of our state's trade reputation in the Pacific Northwest, but the hardworking men and women who have made Washington the trade power-house that it is today.

As the Director of the Certified Electrical Workers of Washington IBEW, I am well aware of the importance of transportation and industrial infrastructure to our state. With one in four jobs linked to trade, the infrastructure that enables that commerce is truly the lifeblood of the state's economy. And while Millennium's proposed export terminal is only one project, in many ways it represents much more than that. It symbolizes our future in trade and serious economic prosperity for the region.

The proposed project would have a tremendous local and state-wide impact in jobs, wages, and tax revenue. During construction it is estimated that the terminal would create 2,650 jobs, with 300 additional permanent jobs available after build-out to run operations. Those jobs would create \$302 million in direct wages and output during construction, with an additional \$65 million annually after the terminal is built. Furthermore, the project would generate \$37.2 million in state tax revenues and \$5.9 million in county tax revenues, contributing to schools, hospitals and other essential services locally. For Washington's working community, projects like Millennium's are about our pensions, health care and retirement plans, and this terminal is the right investment to support those causes.

But despite the clear benefits of investing in our trade future, regulators in Washington have delayed this export project for over five years, and with it, the jobs and economic benefits that people in Cowlitz County need. This lengthy review time is setting a dangerous precedent signaling to other potential investors that Washington is not the place to do business. This could have lasting economic consequences especially for the labor community of this great state. By engendering a hostile regulatory environment for investments like the Millennium project we are doing little more than allowing our direct competition in the Pacific Northwest to take the ensuing jobs and tax revenues.

In addition, Millennium is prepared to follow environmental protocols exhaustively for the terminal's construction. The terminal would be built on the site of an oil aluminum smelter, a brownfield location that has traditionally been dedicated to industrial use. In the hands of Millennium, the site will be transformed into a world-class port facility, making constructive use of an area that has been left to decay for decades. Truly the project can pay environmental dividends for years to come.

Millennium Bulk Terminals project is an important development for Washington and its citizens as a whole. The terminal would create thousands of jobs for working-class people in one of the poorest areas of the state, generate tax revenues that would be used on behalf of those same people and their families, and all the while accomplish these feats in the most environmentally sustainable fashion possible. On behalf of those who depend on skilled labor jobs that come from these types of projects, I implore you to approve this project.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hepner
Executive Director
Certified Electrical Workers of Washington