

WA Building & Construction Trades Council

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the timely approval of the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview under the State Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). After more than five years of analysis, I strongly urge the Department of Ecology (DOE) to approve this project because of the significant economic benefits it will provide our struggling local communities.

As you are likely aware, one in four jobs in Washington is directly tied to trade, making us one of the most dependent states in the nation on this industry. This is our reality, and as such, projects like Millennium are critical in creating the kind of economy and future we would feel comfortable leaving to future generations.

Following the approval of this export terminal facility, it is estimated that our state would see \$680 million in private investments, approximately 2,850 direct and indirect jobs and more than \$43 million in state and county tax revenues. These statistics, of course, sound and look good when referenced. But it's important to remember, these are jobs that can put Washingtonians back to work and reduce our climbing unemployment rate; nearly 9 percent in certain counties. These numbers also mean more money to invest in our communities including schools, law enforcement, infrastructure and small businesses that have been in families for generations.

These benefits are extraordinary and come at a critical time. But it's also worth noting that Millennium will spearhead this economic windfall while still complying with stringent environmental guidelines. Both the SEPA and NEPA environmental impact statements for Millennium confirm this. They concluded that emissions from the terminal would comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and that there would be no "significant adverse environmental impacts from coal dust." Clearly, economic competitiveness and environmental stewardship are not dichotomous goals.

Now that this project is outfitted with a successful and exhaustive review at both the state and national level, I strongly urge you to grant this newly requested submission permit to Millennium and issue a final approval. This is a golden opportunity for our state and its consumers, and we cannot afford to let it pass us by.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment and appreciate your support and efficiency on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lee Newgent
Executive Secretary
WA Building & Construction Trades Council