

Boilermakers 242

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the Millennium Bulk Terminals, a critical infrastructure project that will have long-term impacts on Washington's economy. Infrastructure and trade projects are vital to economic advancement in the northwest. After a prolonged review process, it is time to move this project forward to create jobs and secure Washington's future as a leader in trade.

In Washington, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers focuses on ensuring work opportunities that support manufacturing communities across the state. The unnecessary delay in constructing the Millennium export terminal threatens the jobs and commerce that are essential to the economic vitality of Southwest Washington.

The Millennium export terminal is a \$650 million dollar construction project that will develop 530 acres of underused land into a world class export facility, creating economic development in Longview and the surrounding communities. Our members train extensively to develop the skills necessary to build trade infrastructure such as the Millennium Bulk Terminals, but seldom do we get the chance to be involved on a large project that will directly benefit the community around us as much as this project will.

Jobs created by trade and industrial infrastructure projects are the bedrock of the Washington economy and have afforded many workers family wage jobs as well as pensions, health care, and retirement plans. This money is reinvested into local communities, supporting businesses and paying taxes that fund essential services such as schools, law enforcement and hospitals. The Millennium export terminal is more than just payroll and jobs for Cowlitz County, it effectively represents Washington's stake in the larger trade based economy. As the most trade dependent state in the nation, Washington should take every opportunity to invest in industrial infrastructure projects that create economic development.

The jobs and revenue created by the Millennium export terminal will revitalize Longview's struggling economy, and help to alleviate the burden caused by the current 8% unemployment rate. That work is critical to our members, our families, and our communities, and once the terminal is built, it will lead to more economic development and additional projects that will keep creating more opportunities for good-paying work. The Millennium export terminal would create 2,650 jobs during construction as well as 300 permanent jobs, resulting in \$302 million in direct wages during the construction period in addition to \$65 million annually. Furthermore, the project would generate \$37.2 million in state tax revenues and \$5.9 million in county tax revenues. In addition to this economic boost, moving forward with the export terminal will create a friendly business environment, incentivizing further investment in infrastructure projects across the state. The Millennium projects should be the first of many that advance Washington's position as a leader in national and global trade markets.

The Department has subjected the terminal to a convoluted, extended 5 year permitting process and it's clear that Millennium recognizes the importance of operating the terminal in a responsible manner, valuing Washington's dedication to environmental stewardship. Millennium has demonstrated this commitment to upholding Washington's strong environmental legacy by moving

through every step of the public stakeholder process, ensuring compliance with rigorous state and federal environmental regulations. Despite the clear commitment to environmental protection and the wide reaching economic benefits of the project, permit uncertainty remains and with it, job growth for skilled workers is stalled.

On behalf of Washington's hardworking labor force, I implore you to swiftly approve the permit for the project and allow this invaluable investment in Washington's trade future to move forward.

Steve Burger
Boilermakers Local 242