

Lawrence Birkhofer

Washington is the most trade-dependent state in the nation and we must do all that we can to facilitate growth and sustainability in our trade industry. In fact, transportation infrastructure is the lifeblood of Washington's trade sector, and projects like Millennium Bulk Terminals, a multi-commodity export facility, will provide a significant benefit to families and businesses across the state for several reasons.

First, Millennium is investing \$680 million dollars into cleaning up and rehabilitating a former industrial site to turn it into exactly the kind of project that will help Washington keep doing what it does best – bringing American made goods to markets around the world.

Second, supporting this project doesn't mean having to choose between protecting our environment and economic prosperity; we can have both. After a more than five-year-long review which included the most comprehensive federal review of any infrastructure project ever conducted along the Columbia River by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it is clear Millennium can easily meet the state's high environmental standards while providing hundreds of jobs and adding millions of dollars to our economy.

Washington has a tremendous opportunity with this project to both create job opportunities and protect our region's trade legacy. It's time to act.