IAM District 751

To Whom it May Concern:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminal project in Longview and write today in support of the construction and operation of this world-class export facility and the thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic revenue it will bring to Washington.

I have spent 39 years in the trade-dependent aerospace industry. I served on the Governor's Unemployment Task Force and I am acting Legislative and Political Director for the Aerospace Machinists Union District Lodge 751. During my tenure, I've seen first-hand the stifling effects that a prolonged permitting process can have on economic investment and job creation in our communities.

In an increasingly competitive, global economy, Washington workers need an economic climate that not only allows the modern infrastructure necessary for current businesses to be successful, but will also attract new businesses and jobs into our state - the first step to achieving this is an efficient permitting process.

The Millennium Bulk Terminals project has been awaiting approval for more than five years. That's a statistic likely to scare off most employers looking to build new facilities here — and the family-wage jobs that go with them. It already happened in Tacoma, where an investor pulled out of a methanol plant project, citing an uncertain review process. Washington needs a standard timeframe for its review of proposed projects. If we don't get serious about our approach to infrastructure investment; I fear the next generation of machinists will have to look out of state for opportunities to succeed and build a life for themselves.

This concern does not outweigh the need for a thorough environmental review. Washington state labor has worked hand-in-hand with government and industry over the years to build a first-rate manufacturing sector that also has set a global standard for environmental care.

Thankfully we don't have to choose between environmental protections and opportunity. We're proud to be on the leading edge of environmentalism, and the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals will be another example of our commitment to Washington's environmental quality of life. But I urge project leads to remember that as we wait for the permits to be approved, \$680 million of private investment waits to grow the local economy, support the local government needs with additional tax revenue and support hundreds of family-wage jobs throughout the region - just like my own.

While I understand and appreciate the need to be thorough when evaluating potential environmental impacts, more permitting delays that would extend the five-year process will hurt economic growth and private-investment in our region and should be avoided.

Sincerely,

Larry Brown Legislative/Political Director IAM & AW District Lodge 751