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Organization: self

State: Washington

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

September 22, 2015 Dear Mr. Blodgett and all Draft EIS personnel: I live in Birch Bay about one mile from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal. I have many thoughts on this topic. My first comment is to remind that the people of the state of Washington have demanded that the largest and most polluting coal burning power plant stop burning coal by 2020. We did this because of the consequences of coal burning on neighboring humans. I feel that, in good faith, we cannot send coal from our shores to damage other people. Additionally, I have read about air pollution problems the Chinese are dealing with now. People are sick and dying from just breathing in China. Visibility is down to a couple of feet in some cities. How can we justify adding to this. Coal burning is the main cause of acid rain. Already our oceans are so acidic that shellfish and coral reefs are in jeopardy. Acid rain kills the very forests that might help to mitigate the problems brought by burning fossil fuels. I sincerely hope that our beautiful county will not have a part in burning coal anywhere. After all, we have only one atmosphere to share with all life on earth. The gases in the atmosphere mix fairly rapidly, so soon we will all be breathing some of the toxins released by coal burning. On a more selfish and personal level, I hear trains going to and coming from Cherry Point practically hourly night and day. Within the past two weeks I have waited 25 minutes at a train crossing and I have also counted 121 cars on a coal train. There is no way into or out of Birch Bay that does not involve crossing railroad tracks. I would encourage any corporation to stop investing in infrastructure that promotes the burning of fossil fuels. Why invest in something that is not sustainable? Why do more damage? Let's take the initiative and stop rushing ahead on our path to destruction.