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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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June 9, 2016

Millennium Bulk Terminals EIS  
c/o ICF International  
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550  
Seattle, WA 98104

Subject: Comment Regarding Millennium Build Terminals-Longview SEPA draft EIS

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminal in Longview, WA, a facility to be used primarily for coal export.

My greatest priority as a Commissioner is ensuring the health and safety of my community. Increasing rail traffic statewide would significantly exceed system capacity on almost all segments of rail in Washington, including in the small town of Bucoda, here in Thurston County. In Bucoda, rail lines pass within 200 feet of the main street and many residential homes. The DEIS predicts over 11 additional rail-related accidents every year statewide. [Ch. 5.2 p 8-9] That number rises to as high as 19 when taking cumulative risk into consideration. [6-41] Broadly speaking, the DEIS relies too much on the ambiguous concept of "capacity" and should look more closely at the practical impacts for people who live in small communities like Bucoda and its neighbors including Tenino, East Olympia, and the Nisqually Valley.

Furthermore, I am extremely concerned that this project will reduce access for tribal fishers and harm salmon habitat. [S-41; § 3.5] Having served as Thurston County's representative to the Puget Sound Partnership Salmon Recovery Council, the Nisqually River Council and the Alliance for a Healthy South Sound, I feel strongly that our salmon, and the culture and ecosystem that depend on them, must be protected.

Threats from this project to Thurston County citizens' way of life are extraordinary, not to mention the state-wide population and beyond. I join other communities affected by this proposal and urge the lead agencies to reject this project permit.

Sincerely,

Sandra Romero  
Chair, Thurston County Board of Commissioners