



ANDREW McCORMICK, PRESIDENT

## Eastside Audubon

your connection to nature

birding  
conservation  
education

December 13, 2012

Colonel Bruce Estok  
Commander, Seattle District  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

**Subject:** Coal Shipments through Seattle and Beyond

Dear Colonel Estok:

The Eastside Audubon Society wants to express its concern about the impacts of your pending decision on coal shipments to export terminals in Washington and Oregon. Today's public hearing is focused on the environmental impacts of trains specifically passing through Seattle, clearly just one of many communities affected by the proposed action.

The Eastside Audubon Society has an active membership of approximately 1012 members, with specific concern for the area east of Lake Washington to the Cascade crest, and from I-90 north to the King County boundary. The chapter's mission is to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people. It may seem like a stretch of these geographic and environmental concerns to comment on a rail route through Seattle, but our board has voted to do so in support of the larger environmental concerns at stake. As a chapter of the National Audubon Society, we are actively participating in efforts to defend environmental conditions for the millions of birds that live and migrate in the Pacific Flyway. What happens in Seattle greatly influences those conditions.

In the broadest terms, we concur with those who view coal exports as a way of off-shoring the impacts to Asia. Coal burning is clearly destructive and is rapidly being eliminated in Washington State. Sending it abroad only prolongs the day when we and also the Asians must convert to sustainable energy production.

A multitude of individuals, local governments, tribal governments and

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others have eloquently described the likely local and global impacts of these coal shipments through Seattle and elsewhere. We concur that the Corps of Engineers and Washington Department of Ecology must address all of these in the Environmental Impact Statement. We urge you to use all your scientific resources to study and document the likely cumulative impacts of mining, transporting and exporting the coal. Combustion of up to 160 million tons per year of coal exported through Washington and Oregon ports must be translated into their contribution to greenhouse gasses and climate change.

Thank you for considering these comments on the scope of your Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,



Andrew McCormick  
President

CC: ALICE KELLY, REGIONAL PLANNER,  
NW REGIONAL OFFICE, WA DEPT. OF ECOLOGY

*Ms. Alice Kelly Regional Planner  
NW Regional Office  
Washington Department of Ecology*

Eastside Audubon Society  
308 4th Avenue South  
Kirkland, WA 98083

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The Eastside Audubon Society has an active membership of approximately 350 members, with specific concern for the area east of Lake Washington to the Cascade crest, and from I-90 north to the King County boundary. Its mission is to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people. It may seem like a stretch of these geographic and environmental concerns to comment on a rail route through Seattle, but we are doing so in view of the larger environmental concerns at stake. As a chapter of the National Audubon Society, we are actively participating in efforts to defend environmental conditions for the millions of birds that live and migrate in the Pacific Flyway. What happens in Seattle greatly influences those conditions.

In the broadest terms, we concur with those who view coal exports as a way of off-shoring the impacts to Asia. Coal burning is clearly destructive and is rapidly being eliminated in Washington State. Sending it abroad only prolongs the day when we and also the Asians must convert to sustainable energy production.

A multitude of individuals, local governments, tribal governments and others have eloquently described the likely local and global impacts of these coal shipments through Seattle and elsewhere. We believe that the Corps of Engineers and Washington Department of Ecology must address all of these in the Environmental Impact Statement. The impact statement definitely must address the climate impacts of burning up to 160 million tons per year of coal exported through Washington and Oregon ports. We urge you to use all your scientific resources to study and document the likely cumulative impacts of mining, transporting and exporting the coal and ultimately its combustion.

Thank you for considering these comments on the scope of your Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew McCormick".

Andrew McCormick  
President

cc Alice Kelly, Regional Planner, NW Regional Office , Washington Department of Ecology