12·3·12

I have lived in communities around the Salish Sea my entire life. I spent three years learning to farm and live symbiotically with the landscape on Orcas Island. There are many families on the Island that ~~are subsistence~~ subsist on the food they grow in their backyards. Much of my recreational time was spent walking along the shoreline and observing wildlife. Now I live in Bellingham, W.A. I spend alot of my time outside farming in Whatcom County.

If the Gateway Pacific Terminal is built there would be up to 18 daily coal trains travelling on the BNSF rail line right through my neighborhood.

I request that the GPT E.I.S. encompass the entire

transportation corridor. I want all the communities along the rail and marine routes to be given consideration.

- I am concerned about the health of fisheries and the Salish Sea. Will the coal dust blown from the train cars affect the Orcas whales? Will the 950 annual transits of huge coal ships degrade the salmon habitat and population and the crab and herring fisheries? What is the risk of oil spills? A condition for a healthy and vital community is a biodiverse and non-toxic environment.

- I am concerned also about human health and safety. Will the coal dust and diesel emissions from the trains and ships affect air quality? And water

quality. Will this added rail and ship traffic cause dangerous collisions? Will there be higher rates of cancer, heart disease, asthma and other health risks? I am concerned that Powder River Basin coal combustion in Asia will affect local public health in Asia also.

- I am concerned that we, the taxpayers will ultimatly pay for the cost of coal transport and export. Direct and indirect costs include necessary upgrades to rail infrastructure, safety measures, public health expenses. The many attempst at mitigating adverse impacts will be too costly. No action is necessary to maintain a healthy community.

Thank you, Lily Lewison