

## SCOPING STATEMENT

My name is Linda Brown and I have lived in Bellingham, WA, since 1968. The house my husband and I have lived in for over 35 years is situated on a steep hillside on Chuckanut Drive, abutting the BNSF tracks. No one could live closer to the train tracks than we do. We are both retired and in our 70's and own our home.

I am quite used to the trains and noise, but this past year was different--a new 100-car train had been added twice a day. Not just any train, but a noisy, heavy, dirty, extremely long, life-disrupting train. I am very concerned how 18 additional trains a day will negatively affect our health and quality of life. We were planning to spend our retirement years in our home, but feel the additional trains, be it coal or grain, would be so disruptive that we would be forced to sell our home and move.

I am asking you to please study the following environmental impacts the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal project at Cherry Point will have on human health:

- a) How the noise and vibrations of long and unusually heavy trains will impact property value of the homes along the rail line.
- b) How this chronic noise will affect the health and quality of life for those living close to the tracks.
- c) The effect of air pollutions associated with coal dust and diesel particulates (up to four engines per coal train) on the health of everyone living along the rail corridor.
- d) The effect of air pollution from over approximately 950 annual ships filled with coal for China in the Salish Sea on the health of Bellingham's population.
- e) How any train and/or shipping accident will affect the environment. Determine what safety measures will be needed to protect the environment if/when such accident occurs. Could those safety procedures be implemented along a single train track on a steep embankment along Chuckanut Drive?
- f) The public impact of toxic air pollution crossing the ocean from China, and how will it affect the air quality on the West Coast.

In summary, please study the effects the proposed Gateway Pacific port and the additional trains will have on: 1) air quality, 2) peace and quiet and quality of life, 3) diminished real estate values, 4) environment deterioration of the land and water, and 5) the well-being of the community as a whole.

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