

My name is Gregg McClaran. I am 61 years old. I live, work, and connect with my community in Deming, VanZandt, Kendall, Acme and Bellingham WA. My home is on the North Fork of the Nooksack River in Deming. I am writing concerning the building of the new terminal at Cherry Point, and subsequent increase of coal transport. I want to have the environmental impact in my extended area scoped; this includes the Highway 9 corridor and Bellingham.

The health of my community is dependent on clean water and air. This sustains the natural habitat, beauty and livelihood of our unique area. Eagles, whales, salmon, and all foundational species are threatened by dirty coal and its transport. Big ships will damage the water and air. Look at the environmental havoc created in Queen Charlottes from the Valdez. These huge tankers will be bigger than oil tankers and will be in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Our waterways will be contaminated, endangering our drinking water, recreation, and aquatic wildlife. Marine traffic will be enhanced, creating a loss in herring population, a vital factor in our wildlife cycle here in the northwest. Disasters are inevitable. Emergency response plans are notoriously futile. Marine noise will adversely affect sea mammals. Returning particulate matter across the ocean is a proven outcome of shipping coal to China. Why increase this damage to our environment and our own health? More money will be lost in clean-up, health care, and litigation that would ever be recouped in relatively small number of jobs. Translate those jobs into research and development of clean energy.

I believe there should be no expansion of coal transport through Bellingham and the Highway 9 Corridor. Study should be made of large tankers and the effects on marine life, especially the herring beds off Cherry Point.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Gregg McClaran

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