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# VINCENT LAURENCE READY

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Dear Bellingham Gateway Pacific EIS team,

My name is Vince Ready, and I'm a resident of Hood River, Oregon. I wish to provide written testimony in opposition to the Gateway Pacific coal export terminal during the DEQ comment period. My family lives less than a quarter mile from the Union Pacific tracks, and approximately half a mile from the rest of the proposed barge and rail corridor along the Columbia River, through which millions of tons of coal would travel each year if this proposed export terminal is built.



I'm concerned about the potential health and safety impacts that this project would have on our community in terms of air and water quality, and public safety, and I would like to outline some of my specific concerns.

- There is already well-documented evidence of coal dust and debris (estimated at 500lbs per coal car!) being lost in-transit contaminating the air, water and soil with combustible material, mercury and other harmful and toxic elements. In the gorge, 50-60mph winds are commonplace, and I believe large quantities of coal would contaminate the river and groundwater over time, as a result of uncovered cars traveling through this region.
- Derailments are not uncommon, and the risks to people and personal property are real and significant. A derailment in the Gorge could easily trigger wildfires and spread environmental contamination into the Columbia River, which the railroad tracks hug on both sides in Washington and Oregon.
- My family uses the Columbia River for water-based recreation – including swimming, windsurfing and kayaking – and we're very concerned about the potential health risk to people, fish and wildlife.
- With the potential for significant quantities of coal dust build-up along the rail bed, I believe there is a significant increased risk of wildfires which could be stated from these combustible materials – either by activity along the railroad tracks, or interstate highway 84. We've had numerous wildfires in the past few years that started near, or crossed the railroad tracks, including the "Broughton Fire" in 2007 which is less than a mile from my home, and was triggered by railroad maintenance activities.

- At other times of the year (particularly in the winter months) the Gorge experiences stagnant air and inversions which effectively trap air pollution and frequently lead to air quality advisories. I'm concerned about the contribution of both coal dust and increased amounts of diesel exhaust to dangerous conditions which threaten public health.
- Hood River is located within a national scenic area which consists of a varied and sensitive ecosystems and is home to many endangered species. The potential effects on plants, animals and aquatic species should be considered as part of the environmental impact study.
- Finally, there would be significant increased noise, traffic and congestion which would result from the addition rail and barge traffic passing through our community.

These are all likely and significant impacts which will affect the health, safety and quality of life for my family, and in particular, my children. I disagree strongly with extracting fossil fuels and releasing carbon dioxide into atmosphere, and believe there are even broader, global considerations which should be weighed during the Scoping Phase, but my testimony today is really about the regional impact on my community, and I hope you will give careful consideration and study the impact of the concerns I've raised.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vince Ready", written in a cursive style.

Vince Ready