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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
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December 20, 2012

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Attn: Ted Sturdevant, Director  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Sturdevant:

The Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians is very concerned about the potential negative health impacts resulting from increased coal train shipments to proposed coal terminals in Whatcom County and other areas of the state. Environmental factors, including diesel fumes and coal dust, are known to be causative for a range of respiratory, cardiovascular and developmental disorders – all of which have profound impacts on individual lives and on the costs to tax payers and the state over the long term.

Because of the potential risks involved, we call on the state to conduct a *comprehensive Health Impact Assessment* prior to making any final decision to proceed with construction and operation of these terminals. The health of our patients and fellow citizens, and of our environment, should be of the highest priority in this process.

As naturopathic physicians, we place primary emphasis on prevention of disease and on the positive health benefits from clean air and environment. We also recognize the wide-spread and increasing role of environmental toxins in the etiology and exacerbation of a wide range of diseases and debilitating conditions. A full health impact assessment is necessary because the long term costs and increases in morbidity and mortality have the potential to be much greater than anticipated economic benefits of these proposed terminals.

Please use your position to support better health in Washington and to get all the information on the health impacts of these proposed projects first. If we can be of any assistance in the process, please feel free to contact me. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Robert May, ND  
Executive Director