



Office of the Governor

January 22, 2013

Delivered via regular mail and email: comments@eisgatewaypacificwa.gov

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Lt. General Thomas P. Bostick
Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Secretary McHugh and Lieutenant General Bostick,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the proposed environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Gateway Pacific Terminal and modifications to the Custer Spur of the BNSF Railway (project). I support this project. It will enhance infrastructure and business activity, produce jobs and economic growth, and increase the country's global competitiveness in all ways. I support a thoughtful, thorough environmental and economic impact analysis of this project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

I am troubled by suggestions that this project and other proposed terminals be lumped into a single analysis – a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS). A single PEIS that includes Asia, world-wide greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and similarly broad and diverse areas will result in less informed decision-making. Expanding the breadth of the EIS will divert resources away from analysis of the environmental impacts of the terminal and rail spur to matters not relevant to this project. Coal is one of the many commodities that would pass through the terminals. Advocates for a broad PEIS could be ascribed a motive that targets coal. The environmental review mechanism should not dictate a result, but an ill-advised broad PEIS that looks only at coal would do just that. It would stifle valuable coal exports by purposely including review elements that are not relevant and are aimed at a preordained conclusion.

NEPA does not require a PEIS for this type of project and engaging in a PEIS would be contrary to the intent of NEPA. This is a crystallized project, in a specific place, with defined parameters

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and operations. I have every confidence in the Corps of Engineers and other co-lead agencies to conduct a full and focused EIS for the Gateway Pacific Terminal and Custer Spur project.

I support this project and an EIS for this project. I oppose a broad PEIS, a proposal with numerous faults, not the least of which is a destined outcome –targeting only one export commodity.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

cc: The Honorable Mike Enzi, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Barrasso, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis, U.S. House of Representatives