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GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies  
1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400  
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To Whom It May Concern:

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County is concerned with the potential environmental and cultural impacts from coal trains going to the proposed Cherry Point terminal in Whatcom County. We are requesting that the Environmental Impact Statement include an analysis of the effects to Thurston County. These impacts should include direct effects from the trains, as well as hazards from potential spills. As seen from the mudslides in Snohomish County, that recently derailed a train, the potential for derailment along railroad tracks is a distinct probability due to weather conditions in the Pacific Northwest. An analysis of direct effects should include, but not be limited to, socioeconomic impacts on cities due to traffic delays from train crossings, potential consequences of waits to emergency vehicles, and general traffic studies. We are also requesting the Environmental impact Statement examine the potential adverse effects from spill clean ups, including decline of water quality which may also result in a violation of Native American fishing treaty rights, and archaeological damage. An examination of indirect effects, from the extensive train traffic passing through our county, must include, but not be limited to: air quality, fugitive dust, noise, and vibration. Cumulative impacts to be examined include, but are not limited to, climate change and human health. We look forward to working with you on impacts to Thurston County and providing our comments on the environmental analysis.

Sincerely,

Allyson Brooks Ph.D.  
President, League of Women Voters of Thurston County