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Mr. Randel Perry
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
Care of GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400
Bellevue, WA 98004

Mr. Ted Sturdevant, Director Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Mr. Tyler Schroeder
Current Planning Supervisor
Whatcom County Planning & Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

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EIS SCOPING FOR GATEWAY PACIFIC TERMINAL PROJECT:
CLIMATE CHANGE AND BURNING FOSSIL FUELS

Agency Representatives:

Before SSA Marine builds coal-shipping terminals on the Pacific Northwest coast, it seems like it would be in everyone's best interest to know how the eventual burning of up to 150 million additional tons per year of coal, a fossil fuel, will affect the overall well-being of the environment and the health of the human population. **Therefore, as a part of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for Gateway Pacific Terminal, please scope the impact and publish your findings regarding the amount of additional CO₂ which will be released into the atmosphere each year when the coal is shipped from GPT and burned in Asia. Since CO₂ remains in the atmosphere for many years, please show the increase cumulatively year by year until the goal of approximately 54 million tons is achieved.**

The ocean waters and the atmosphere both sequester carbon from CO₂. Burning coal releases huge amounts of CO₂. Since at least half of the oxygen we breathe is produced in the ocean from photosynthetic activity, we owe our very existence to the health of the oceans and its interaction with the atmosphere; what happens in the ocean and to the ocean affects each and every one of us in the most personal of ways.

When too much CO₂ is released and trapped into the atmosphere, the oceans become acidic and the earth warms; climate disruption is the result. Ocean acidification and warming impairs the ability of phytoplankton to thrive, thereby reducing our oxygen supply. When landmasses warm, climate patterns are altered dramatically, as we are now beginning to see. Droughts and floods, melting glaciers, and all sorts of chaos are beginning to happen and, if we don't change our activity, much worse chaos will ensue causing food shortages, destruction of infrastructure, population migration and disease. Climate change on this level should be avoided at all costs.

Worldwide, scientists have concluded that rising levels of CO₂ caused by fossil fuel burning is the chief contributor to climate change. Current levels of CO₂ stand at 395 ppb, which greatly exceeds the maximum calculated to alter climate, melt ice caps and glaciers, cause droughts, etc. For over 800,000 years of life on earth up until the Industrial Revolution, the number remained constant at 275 ppb. Burning more fossil fuels contributes directly to the ultimate destruction of all life forms and causes the natural balance to spin out of control.

Building GPT to ship millions more tons of fossil fuels yearly to Asia will significantly increase the levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere and in the ocean. Please study the impact of this project on the increase of CO₂.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Westland
8293 Fawn Crescent
Blaine, WA 98230
westlandstar@comcast.net