

EIS Committee  
January 15, 2013

I have written to you before but I want to state again my very serious concerns regarding the building of a coal terminal at Cherry Point.

Here's what I'd like you to evaluate with the best scientific evidence :

Can you assure the public that the waters off Cherry Point will not be polluted by a coal terminal?

Can you assure us that there will not be a tanker accident in Haro Strait?

Can you assure people all along the trains' path that they will not be harmed by breathing coal dust?

Can you be sure that there will not be coal train derailments due to coal dust on the tracks?

Can you be absolutely sure that a coal terminal will not contribute to acidification of the waters in Haro Strait?

Who will pay for over and underpasses in Bellingham to allow for long trains to pass without disrupting traffic including emergency vehicles?

With global warming rising at alarming rates does it make any sense to continue to mine coal? China is suffering with terrible air pollution and perhaps might turn to cleaner energy if we did not continue to send them cheap coal. Their pollution from coal burning is reaching our shores and contaminating our air as well.

Lastly, who will benefit besides the owners and investors in Peabody Coal and SSA Marine and BNSF? Certainly not the citizens of Washington State.

I know that you have heard from many people who are truly concerned about this project. I think that your duty is to protect our water, air and health.

Thank you for your serious consideration and examination of all of the ramifications of the proposed project.

Diane Kaufman  
Friday Harbor