

January 21, 2013

Re: Scoping period comments on Gateway Pacific Terminal in Washington.

My name is Jane Fritz. I'm a 34-year resident of Bonner County, Idaho, and the author of *Legendary Lake Pend Oreille: Idaho's Wilderness of Water*, the most comprehensive book about this northern Idaho natural lake. For over half my life I have lived in this area and have actively worked on issues that ensure water quality protection for the entire watershed including the Pend Oreille River, which flows into the great Columbia River.

The work that I and others have done to protect water quality upstream is inherently threatened by the shipment of coal by train if the proposed coal exports are approved during this EIS process. It's possible that more than 40 coal trains going to all five proposed terminals in Oregon and Washington, including Longview, Coos Bay, and Port of Morrow on the Columbia River could pass along the shores of Lake Pend Oreille near the towns of Clark Fork, Hope, Trestle Creek, Sandpoint and Sagle, as they travel through Idaho on their way to Washington and its coastal communities. If any of these trains derailed along the water, the impact to Lake Pend Oreille would be devastating and potentially severe from a water quality perspective. In all the years I have lived near the lake and rivers, never has there been so dire a threat to the watershed's environmental quality and economic wellbeing. The Significant Adverse Impact of such coal transport on water quality and the local communities' recreation economy needs to be measured in this scoping review. Lake Pend Oreille is the lifeblood of this region and its soul.

Additionally, the impact to public health to those people and other animal species living along the transport line needs to be assessed. I recently moved from where I was living near Lake Pend Oreille just uphill from the rail line which likely would carry these coal transports. For over a year, I continually experienced pulmonary distress from the diesel fumes from the half-dozen coal trains that came through this lakeshore route. No other freight trains have caused such a health challenge for me. Perhaps it is the four locomotive engines that is the problem, but mile-long coal trains are heavy and they need such power. Or maybe it's because they pass through so slowly due to the weight of the cars causing the fumes to persist. It needs to be studied because when the trains passed through and I was home, I would have to immediately close my windows in order to be able to breath comfortably. At night during warm summer months while I was sleeping, I would sometimes be awakened coughing because of these diesel fumes.

I believe this project not only threatens the environment across our region, but also threatens public health. Additionally, this project's contribution to global climate change

needs to be assessed, as climate scientists have warned that we are nearing the tipping point of severe and perhaps irreversible impacts to our planet. Thank you.