

Dear Army Corp. of Engineering ,

My name is Docavie Vendiola of the Shoshone tribe in Nevada, but my home is also here in Lummi. I am writing this letter because I am concerned about the coal train idea that might pass. If this bill passes, the coal from the trains will not only be totally disregarding our treaties of 1855, but it would also be detrimental to the community's health and way of life.

Cherry point is sacred burying grounds of our ancestors. It is immoral and against the law to dig up the peoples of the past remains. We should have learned from the past and not repeat the same mistakes over.

A lot of my uncle's fish and other people depend on the fish as well. If the coal train goes through, it will affect the fish directly breaking the treaties. We should stop right there and say if this is going to break any of the treaties or harm the wildlife; we shouldn't even consider this plan.

On top of the coal damaging the wildlife and breaking countless laws, our own health will be in jeopardy. There will be tons and tons of coal hills piled of by the water. The coal will definitely seep into the water not to mention, if we have a bad wind storm a lot of our land will be covered and that dirty substance.

So, if this coal train passes, there are going to be some pretty unhappy powerful people and will not end well for the corporation.

Sincerely,

Docavie Vendiola

Thursday, January 17, 2013

Dear Army Corps of Engineers,

The name would be Justice Marie Black-Williams. I just so happen to be a 16 year old single mother. My sons name is Major Steelo Reyes; he is 10 months and can already walk.(: My moms and pops names are Lea Scott and Crayton Williams. The grandparents are Cynthia Wilson and Norbert Plaster. I also have a grandmother named Mary Black. I am a student at Lummi nation high school. An enrolled member on the Lummi reservation, a reservation that is going to pay for your wrong doings for putting a coal train in the northwest of Washington State.

As you should know, earth happens to be going through some major global warming issues. And as you should know, this coal train will only make matters worse. Why sacrifice the human species for greed? To me that just sounds flat out rude and selfish. Have you heard of ocean acidification? Of course you have. So why the poop would you build a coal train next to our ocean?

The southern oceans will actually become corrosive, yes corrosive, by 2050. 2050 is only 37 years away! I am not trying to be alive when global warming pops off. But you people are making it impossible for me to try and dodge it. Scientist said southern ocean would become corrosive by 2050 if we keep polluting our water at the current rate. Imagine how it could affect the speed of our pollution progress. This has to take at least another 5 years off our life span. If we want to save our planet, we have to take action and fast.

Global warming is the main issue, but what about all the little dirty details in between? I could go on and on and on. Like how my son will never be aloud to swim in our bay and jump off the docks because the government decided to make OUR water dirty. Or maybe I should talk about how our fisherman will have no more fish to catch, because you people killed the marine life, with your icky inventions.

There are so many reasons not to build a coal train I can't think of why you would even dare to build one. I couldn't live with myself knowing I ruined so many people's lives. So do me a favor, and think about the people. Think about how much trouble you're causing that isn't needed. Let's make this as simple as possible, just do the right thing.

X 

Dear Army Corps Engineers,

My name is Samantha Wilson I'm 18 years old and a senior at Lummi Nation Schools. My parents are Candice and Robert Wilson. My father's parents are Ellen Bowers and Charles Wilson. My mother's parents are Darlene and Arthur Lane. I am an enrolled member of the Lummi Nation Tribe through my mother, enrollment number 4630. Most would never guess that I am Native American, but I state the fact that I am with pride!

To you, I may just be another student writing you, telling you about my stand point on the coal train at Cherry Point. But on the Lummi Reservation I am an individual. My opinion matters. I have a path set out for me and I have a long journey to continue. The land I am walking on my ancestors once walked. They've struggled and fought for the rights that I now uphold. Blood, tears and sweat were shed so I could live a better life. We've all been raised as Lhaq'te mish people, meaning "People of the Sea" we live off the sea it's where our food comes from, it's where we come from. We've been taught to go fishing, crabbing, make canoes and numerous other things, but most importantly we've been taught to protect our Schelangen which is "our way of life", our culture and our people. It is our duty to promote, protect and to preserve it. All of this, passed down from generation to generation, never to be forgotten.

Giant tankers are said to be pulling into our waters. They'd be polluting them, and could cause species to die off and when one species dies off it affects the other. The amount of salmon in our waters is already decreasing and with these giant ships coming in and out our numbers will only continue to head down hill. This goes for all of the sea wildlife we have, there isn't nearly as much as there used to be when our grandparents fished. To add to that many of the men around here are self employed on their fishing or crabbing boats. So, not only is seafood our ancestral food but it's also our income.

Within the Cherry Point area is an ancestral cemetery, where my great great grandparents could be at rest. It isn't worth any money to disturb someone's resting place, to me it's outrageous to think that it's still even being considered, it isn't right and it's inappropriate. Nothing should ever be built over cemetery grounds. If it was white man's land it would be out of the question.

Our land is where we build our homes, where we live, raise our children. The last thing we want is for our children to grow up without something we cherished so much. I want for my great grandchildren to be able to say they too got to walk the land and fished the waters of their ancestors. I want them to be as proud of me as I am of my ancestors. My goal is to help promote, protect and preserve my Schelangen, for not only the next generation but for the many to follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Samantha Wilson

## Coal Train

I am writing this letter because I don't want the coal trains going through cherry point anymore. The reason for that is because it destroys our environment, which makes fishing more difficult almost impossible to our kids and grandkids.

The way it destroys our environment is all of the coal that is getting burned up it needs to go some where after its burned. It goes into the air which we breathe, our animals breathe, and what our plants use. If this keeps going on then the air quality is just going to get worse and worse. This will make the water quality worse. Then we will start losing our salmon, crab, halibut, shellfish, and just the beautiful view of the water.

Fishing is a Lummi tradition, some people live off of it most of the Lummi tribal members do it just because they love to do it. Fishing is part of our culture its how our ancestors survived. If they keep running the coal train through cherry point then we have a great chance of losing that. If we lose it our kids and grandkids are never going to experience it. I know that they will love it because I'm half coastal salish and half plains Indian, I never went fishing until I was 17 years old. My first time on the water is when I went crabbing, I loved it I never wanted to get off the water. It's a great experience and on your way in from a long day of work you get to look at the sunset as it reflects off the water. The water is getting more and more polluted everyday, which means were going to be losing that beautiful sight.

*J. Tom*

January 16, 2013

Dear Army Corps of Engineers,

I recently read about the Cherry Point Terminal that they want to put up here in Whatcom County at Cherry point. I am currently a senior in High School and I am a Native American that is apart of Lummi Indian reservation. There are a few reasons why I am against for putting up the terminal in Cherry point is because it is sacred grounds; it will damage the environment and the Native American traditions.

The land of Cherry point is sacred grounds and was a burial ground for the ancestors. In the culture it is not good to disturb the grounds of the ancestors. The land its self is unique in its way of providing area where Herring could feed and lay their spawn. The Herring population is already vulnerable and has declined by 90% since 1973. The Herring should be protected and not be endangered.

The herring will not only be affected by also the community and the environment. As being apart of a family that goes fishing, crabbing and clam digging. All the aqua animals will not like being in a place where it is polluted and that would affect the community by not having ceremonies with fish and other sea food. It will take out all the traditions that we have been doing since we were kids and that is ludicrous.

Sure, the Terminal will profit by having many more job opportunities for unemployed people in Whatcom County but the land on Cherry point is not only land but it is a memorial grounds where people do go fishing and make memories with families, taking that way to make money is ridiculous. What if it was your land that meant a lot too many people, would you put terminal if you knew it was there just to damage aqua life and peoples lives?

Sincerely,

Casey Williams

January 16, 2013

Dezarea Finkbonner

To the Army Corps of Engineers.

I am writing this to you guys to tell you how my ancestors and I would feel about this coal train being put on our burial ground on Cherry Point. I feel that there is no need to put it on Cherry Point with all the things it could affect, like the well being of us natives here on the Lummi Reservation. The reasons I'm going to talk about are why my ancestors and I wouldn't want the coal on Cherry Point.

I am 16 years old and my father is Robert Finkbonner (Bob) and my mother is Elida Cagey (Turner). My dad's parents are Henry Finkbonner and Miriam Finkbonner. My mom's parents are Edward LaClair and Vicki Turner. My dad's side of the family is from Canada and here on the Lummi Reservation. My mom's side of the family is from Lummi Reservation. So I am  $\frac{3}{4}$  Lummi and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Canadian.

If the coal train goes to Cherry Point that it will be on our burial site that all of the ancestors and elders could be buried at. If the coal train does go to Cherry Point it could really hurt us who are here on the Lummi Reservation. I don't want my future grandkids to be hurt or affected by this in anyway. If the future kids of this reservation will get affected what kind of world will people be living in. I wouldn't want my kids to think that if they came into this world like that.

This could affect the way we all live on the reservation and it could affect us really bad. Our living ways is the one thing that keeps us alive and well here on Lummi. This coal train could hurt us and the future kids. It wouldn't be great for us to stay here while that coal dust slowly kills us all off the reservation. It could be a hazard to the youth, teens, and adults. We could live a lot longer if you guys don't put the coal on Cherry Point. Since the youth and other teens my age would not really like that our air and health being polluted the way it would if the coal train was on Cherry Point.

The coal train could affect everything. Our food, the air we breathe to live. Those things are the really important stuff we need as humans to survive. We fish and crab for the gatherings we have or just for food in parties we throw to celebrate for birthdays or just for dinners. The coal could affect the air we breathe in because it has dangerous things in it that nobody should have to breathe in because if they do it slowly kills them. It affects the fish and crab by it being to close to the ocean that we fish and crab in.

Well that is all I have to say for this topic. Cherry Point is not were the coal train should bring that coal, make a place for it to go so that it wont affect the future of this reservation. The kids is of the future is what should be thought of when you guys are thinking of the coal train being put on Cherry Point. Thanks for reading this and thinking of what we all have to say about the coal train on Cherry Point. Think of the future kids when you think of putting it on Cherry Point or not

***Dear Army Corps of Engineers,***

My name is Jacob Roberts and I am from Nooksack Indian Reservation but I live in Lummi Reservation with my mother. It's bad enough you people took most of our land many, many years ago. It's not the 1400's anymore. My mom is from the Lummi Reservation and related to a lot of people out here. I'm pretty sure that I am related to half to the people out here. My dad is from the Nooksack Indian Reservation and I am related to a good portion of the people out there and people from Canada. So if you take more of our land you're looking for a bad time. I also know a lot of people from other reservations. Also I don't think you want to meet my crazy uncles either.

I am pretty athletic I guess. I play football, basketball, track sometimes, and canoe pulling. Canoe pulling is a cultural sport to the Salish people. Canoe pulling takes place out in the water and it's made out of wood if you didn't know. We Salish people don't recognize the border so we go from Neah gay I mean Neah Bay and go all the way to Vancouver Island.

Canoe pulling means a lot to me because that's the only sport I'm good at and I also don't get hurt during this sport unlike football I get hurt every season. Canoe pulling is a big part of my life so if you guys do this coal train thing I'm going to be mad. I will be mad because you people will mess up the water that we train in and also race in.

I love canoe pulling. If it wasn't for canoe pulling I would probably be in jail or dead. I would be one of those to thing because I would be doing drugs and/or alcohol. That is why canoe pulling is a big part of my life because it keeps me strong and healthy.

So don't mess with the treaty that you people signed in the 1800's and let us keep our land that we have left. Also let us keep using the water for fishing, crabbing, clam jamming, and most of all canoe pulling because that's what keeps the youth off of drugs and alcohol. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Jacob Roberts

To the army corps of engineers,

I am Jane Gabriell Jefferson I am descendent of Gabe Richard Jefferson, and Denise Lynn Jefferson. Gabe R. J. is my father the way I am connected to Lummi nation. My dad's parents are Gail J. and Marie Phare. I have respect for my grandpa for his family, because my father wouldn't have known what he knows today if it wasn't for my grandpa me thought him how to fish, how to fix things, est. I am gratefully for that. I am not gratefully for how you are trying to take away why I am gratefully for. The sea is one part of our culture. Also the place where you are trying to dig is an ascent burial ground. Also you could start global worming which could lead to the next ice age.

This will completely break out treaty you are trying to mess up our water our way of life. For some people and animals it's a way to survive. If one of you ships or trains crash and dump coal everywhere. It will eventual kill all of our sea life. Also for your ships you would take different water to weigh down your ships. That water would be from across the world there is a reason why it's across the world. It should stay there, there are different types of sea life and its not meant to mix with ours it might kill all of fish. It's not right.

Cheery point is a burial sight for our accesses the survivors of the flood. It's wrong to berry up people that have already been there for a long time. They have there right to. They should be left with they aren't some toys that can just be messed with. If you fought for the people that are alive, then they wanted to berry you up for a peaty buck. how would you feel?

Not only all of that its going to mess up our environment. I already know it's getting messed up but if we go this its going to mess it up at a more higher rate. this might sound weird but if we heat up our earth it will start the next ice age the ice age is not going to be good, because were we are standing we could have bunch of snow and ice. I don't want snow and ice on top of my head, Just because you wanted to make a good buck. Everyone should thick about our earth before we destroy it. Which one would you rather have they earth or money.

If you couldn't tell by my letter I am agents the coal terimmel. There is just too much bad out weighing the good. This must really suck hearing this from a 15 year old, but I would rather have the planet earth then money. If we don't have earth we don't have nothing at all. I think the earth is worth more then all of the money in the world. I hope that this letter makes you mind on the right track.

From Jane Jefferson

**Dear. Army corps of engineers  
1/17/13**

**I am a native boy who lives in Lummi nation its in Bellingham 98226 Washington I like it up here because there are lots of stuff to do. It nice living next to the water and stuff I got to learn a lot of stuff up here I learned how to fish with a net I was three years old when my dad brought me out fish.**

**When I was five I got to go crabbing with my dad and uncle we had so much fun there was this one time my dads missed a bowie and I was in back of him incase he missed one and he told his uncle and he looked back of the boat and I had it right in my hand ha-ha ya it was a cool story.**

**It always wet up here except for the weekend it sunny all the time but it beautiful up here eagles all over hunting for ducks out in the fields and over the water and hunting for deer and elk and a hole bunch of stuff in the mountains that's one of the stuff I like the best.**

**I like the school Lummis built for us because we could get an education and if we went to Ferndale we would either drop out and get in to fights and even get suspended too it took a lot of stuff to make this school.**

**I also like this school because of the sports half of the school plays sports and my favorite sport is basketball because it helps us to work together to finish something and this is why you guys should not build this port because it would miss up my whole way of living.**

**Sincerely, Cayce Jones**