

Dear Army Corps of Engineers,
To Whom It May Concern:

My Name Is Savannah Cline-LaClair. I am 16 years old. I lived in Lummi until I was 12, I then moved to Everson. My mom enrolled me into the Nooksack Tribe. I Went To Nooksack Valley Middle School & High School. Towards The End Of 9th Grade I Transferred Back Here To Lummi. I Grew Up Here In Lummi. Most of My Immediate Family Lives Here In Lummi. To Me This Is Home.

I would be really disappointed if this beautiful place were to be transformed into something that is not pleasant. The water is apart of our culture, we use it to fish, crab, clam dig, canoe race, & for the canoe journey. My grandfather & most of my uncle's fish, crab, & clam dig. That's how they get some of their money. If they couldn't do any of these things how are they going to make a living? My brothers canoe race here in Lummi. I know they really enjoy it. If they weren't able to canoe race it would be taking part of their culture away. It would also mean we wouldn't be able to paddle from Birch bay to here, for the canoe journey. That also would be taking part of our culture away. So you see the water is a big part of our culture, & if the terminal is built it will take our culture away from us.

I want my children to experience the things I have here in Lummi. They won't be able to do that when the water & air are polluted. I won't allow them to come here. I know other teenagers want the same thing for their children especially if their home is here in Lummi.

We don't want this place polluted especially the water. We wouldn't be able to swim or canoe race. Our animals would get sick and die. Fishing, crabbing, & clam digging would be affected and a lot of families earn a living from those things.

If this terminal is put here we are going to lose a lot, our way of life, culture, homes, & burial grounds. Not all the money in the world can compensate for these things. Putting this terminal here will take something away from us that we can never get back.

Sincerely, Savannah LaClair

DEAR ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERING,

JANUARY 16,2013

MY NAME IS CODYLEE BAILEY, MY MOTHER IS CRYSTAL BAILEY HER FAMILY LIVES IN LUMMI AS DO MINE, ON MY MOMS SIDE IM THE 7TH GENERATION IN THE FAMILY SO ITS UP TO ME TO CHANGE THINGS AN MAKE IT GO THE RIGHT WAY AN THAT MEANS NO COAL TRAIN.

BECAUSE IT WILL NOT JUST RUIN THE ECONOMY BUT IT WILL RUIN THINGS SUCH AS THE WATER, AN YOUR PROPOSAL OF THE COAL TRAIN, WOULD RUIN MY WAY OF LIFE AS A NATIVE AMERICAN, THOSE THINGS YOU WOULD MESS UP FOR MY SOON TO BE CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN. AN IF THE WATER GETS ALL MESSED UP THAT MEANS NO CRABBING, NO FISHING, NO CANOE PULLING, WITCH SOME NATIVE AMERICANS DO FOR THAT DOLLAR, SO THERE ABLE TO SURVIVE IN THIS FIRST CLASS WORLD, THAT'S THE COUPLE OF THINGS WE AS NATIVE PEOPLE WOULD LOSE,

AN EVERY ONE ELSE WOULD LOSE THE WORLD THE WAY METHANE GAS EATS THE O ZONE AN THE OXYGEN WOULD LEAVE THE EARTH IT WOULD BE DINOSAURS ALL OVER AGAIN EXCEPT WERE THE HUMAN SPECIES.

THANKS FOR TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR LIFE TO READ MY LETTER AN I APPRECIATE IT IF YOU DON'T ALLOW THE COAL TRAIN PROPOSAL TO BE ALLOWED THANKS

SINCERELY,

Bailey, Codylee

Dear Army Corps of Engineering,
January 16, 2013

My name is Adam-Lee Israel Lawrence; I am from the Lummi Nation tribe. My family is the Lawrence family and I have heard that you guys are the ones that say if the coal train goes through are not. So I would like to give you some reasoning why it shouldn't go through.

First off my first reason is that it is close to where my ancestors are buried and it will destroy the land where they are. I know some people that have got buried there and it would not feel alright if there was coal on it are anything because that is like showing disrespect to the family with all that coal on it. I know if someone did that to your burial grounds you wouldn't like it and just think if you were buried and someone goes and put some coal on it. Also have you even thought of effects that would happen to us as native people?

As native people one of my cultural things are to fish, crab, and clam dig and if you put this coal terminal here at Cherry Point it will effect my cultural, and this is how are people get money. Now days there is not as much fish as there use to be and if there was to have a supper tanker have coal go in to the water it will really mess up are culture of fishing, crabbing, and clam digging. So all I go to say is please think about what you do to us as native people.

Now this is my last reason and it is about the future of the little one that are going to come behind us and I would wish that they have something to do such as fishing. I really would love to show my son how to fish like we do now but if you pass this coal train it will not happen and I just want to say please put yourself in my shoe.

I have gave you all my reasons why not to put this coal train at Cherry Point. So I hope you chose the right decision like not do it because I will really ruin are life's as native people.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Valerie Edwards. I am a member of the Lummi Nation tribe. I am against the coal train.

The cultural impact this train will have on our small reservation will be one that will affect our tribe for generations. As a canoe puller I am strongly against having more marine traffic. Canoe pulling is a way of life for me, my family, and over half of the families in Lummi. It has been a tradition for a very long time. The seafood we get from the water is very important for our cultural traditions. If we lose the right to swim, canoe pull, get food, and other stuff we will lose a very important part of our tradition.

The coal train will cause a major change in the environment. The weather will be hotter, which would cause the sea levels to rise. It was predicted that in 30 years or so a lot of our land will be under water.

Sincerely, Valerie Edwards

To Whom it May Concern

I disagree on the coal train for our reservation. Having the coal train go by our reservation is a big risk; it could ruin our natural resources. Native Americans care a lot about reservation. If coal fell in our water it would pollute it, and the people receiving the coal would be free from the responsibility of clean up. It would be left to us, to deal with damage that will be done.

I don't think I would be able to handle the noise at all. I mean I love the sound of trains but not every other hour also, The trains run off of fossil fuel which means it's going to pollute the air which we breathe there could possibly be vandalism everywhere. Another problem is that we would be exposing our reservation to outsiders. The gases in the air could kill the wonderful cedar trees we have.

The trains would mess up our hunting and fishing and that's an everyday thing for our people. We have been doing this for thousands of years. It messes up our cultural activities like the Salmon Ceremony which is very important to us because they are so important. The fossil fuel and the coal pollute our air with dust and methane gas. The animals we have on our reservation would get really sick and possibly die.

Another big thing is that the terminal would be built on burial grounds where our ancestors are. They are on family land. The ships would go through our fishing grounds. We want to stay on this reservation with no people bugging us about boats coming through our water. We don't want 48 million tons of coal going through here!.

The coal train will take something that we can never get back. Money is nothing to us because it can't replace the water air and sacred sites. I want to be able to eat sea food fish, crab, oysters, and clams from our clean water. I don't want half of our reservation to go under water because of global warming, which would be made worse with every trip the coal train makes.

Grace Cooper

Dear Army Corps Of Engineers,

I disagree on the coal train because there will be trains and boats traveling between over our lands and waters. It will put a lot and pollution into the air, road and water. We won't have time on the road for all the trains that go by each day. We won't be able to handle the boats going through our water and polluting it all. Our water will be so dirty, it will be useless, killing the fish and taking away our chance to make a living on the water.

We care so much about our land, our reservation. The terminal building will be built on land where our ancestors were buried and lived. Why do that to people that does were buried there? We are trying to let them rest in peace, while this coat train is trying to use sacred land to make money.

I don't want our land to go under water due to global warming when the coal gets shipped over to china. About 37 years from now part of our reservation will be covered in water because of global warming. We would like our reservation to be the same for our kids, so they can love where we did. They wouldn't see what's its like, how there parents grew up, or what it looked like before all this happened.

The shipping would mess up our fishing/ crabbing grounds. What if the boat with coal on it tipped over and all of the coal went into the water? We wouldn't be able to swim, fish, crab, clam dig. That's what we do here. It's who we are. Many of is like off fishing, crabbing, and clam digging money.

There isn't any amount of money in the world that can compensate us for what we would lose: fishing, cultural stuff, grave yards, family lands. Lummi people don't need the coal trains and terminals destroying what little we have left of our culture.

Sincerely,

Halle Sturgeon

Dear army corps of corps of engineers

I'm afraid the uses of coal and the resulting global warming are going to take a lot of native culture away.

For instance:

Taking land from our reservation will affect a lot of our elders because there could be possible burial grounds;

Therefore the elders will have less.

Also it's taking our family land away which also will take a lot of money away from people that own land.

The money also goes towards paying for our fishing grounds.

Natives who can't work to get money so they fish long hard hours to earn money for their families.

Our land is another important thing we will be losing

Losing our land is like losing everything.

We, as Native Americans want to raise our own children and families where we grow up.

Also we want our kids to learn more about our culture than we ever learned.

We want better for our kids but in order for that we must have our land, our culture and also a couple native teachers would be very helpful!

Pollution is also taking away many things from Native Americans.

Students and kids wouldn't be able to go swimming in our salt water and families who canoe pull won't be able to use our waters.

That would change and mess up a lot of things.

Families have generations of canoe pulling. How can someone just break an important cycle up that has been going on for years upon years?

And for the hunting and fishing that would affect a lot of our tribal members.

How would it affect our tribal members?

Well for those who like to make money by keeping our culture alive sure shows that they got heart and don't want our tribe to give up our native culture.

And not only that, many tribal members aren't able to get jobs.

So therefore the go fishing, crabbing and hunting for the families and money.

This is why I don't want the use of coal and the resulting of global warming to occur because it takes many people rights away and many lands away.

Love always, Danalee Noland

Dear, Army Corps of Engineers

My name is Enrique Medina Sturgeon, I am 16 years old. I'm from Lummi, and I am writing this to you from Lummi Nation School. This is to tell you about my concern for the coal train.

Xwe' chi' eXen (Cherry Point) is a sacred landscape of Lummi Nation. Our ancestors have been buried there for at least 3,500 years, 175 generations of families who have lived there. To have a train run through to it and dump coal on it to be transported to china would not be right.

This coal train would affect everything around it, such as marine life, people, and the earth. A few things that can affect the wild life in the water, if coal or oil were to spill in the water it would kill off everything in the water. The ways it would affect people is by giving people jobs and it would help the community out.

The way this coal train would have an impact on the earth is that it would be putting more pollution into the air by the trains and by the boats that go to china. To have a train would also not be safe to the wild life. And last to put these things out here would also not help the environment as in by putting more pollution and causing global warming to get worse.

In the end I think by putting the coal train out here it would cause more damage. Over all it would do more bad then good. So I think the coal train should not be able to ship from cherry point.

Sincerely,

Enrique Medina Sturgeon

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Valerie Edwards. I am a member of the Lummi Nation tribe. I am against the coal train.

The cultural impact this train will have on our small reservation will be one that will affect our tribe for generations. As a canoe puller I am strongly against having more marine traffic. Canoe pulling is a way of life for me, my family, and over half of the families in Lummi. It has been a tradition for a very long time. The seafood we get from the water is very important for our cultural traditions. If we lose the right to swim, canoe pull, get food, and other stuff we will lose a very important part of our tradition.

The coal train will cause a major change in the environment. The weather will be hotter, which would cause the sea levels to rise. It was predicted that in 30 years or so a lot of our land will be under water. Also, the tankers could bring wildlife not native to our lands, whom might mass populate and take over the area. A change in the environment is not what we need on our already small reservation.

Cherry Point is considered a cemetery by Washington state. Our ancestors lived their lives there. They passed away and were buried there. How would you feel if we went and dug up your great grandparents because we wanted to build a casino to generate money? Doesn't sound too good huh?

Doing this breaks the treaty. We want our reservation to be in good shape for our kids, grandkids, and future generations. My name is Valerie Edwards, I am a Lummi tribal member, and I am against the coal train.

Sincerely,

Dear Army Corps of Engineers,

My name is Tesia Lynn Conway. I am a student who goes to Lummi Nation School. I'm 16 and in the 10th grade. I'm from Lummi (Bellingham) Washington. My grandma is Ernestine Gensaw. I come from a family that likes to fish and crab and hunt. I don't think they should put a coal train here because there is a lot of issues and problems that will occur during the process if you do it.

Why you shouldn't put the coal train is because it will be a big impact on burial sites. If you make the train go near or through burial sites it's going to be hard on others. Like from all the dust that its leaving behind it will affect the burial sites.

The coal train can also have an environment impact on everyone. It can cause fishing, clamming, or crabbing to shut down. If any of these shut down some people won't have a job. If people don't have a job our wages will start decreasing. It can also cause global warming. When the dust is in the air it can go straight to the sea. That's where we get our food and if we eat that where harming ourselves because of the coal.

The coal trains biggest impact is on health issues. The coal train can affect the air and make it hard to breath or do anything. How it affects the sea is that it will harm us if we eat anything that's from the sea. It affects our land because where there making the tracks there taking away some of our land that we could use someday for something that we want. It can cause marine traffic because boats want to drive around and it will take away some of the boat spots that they would like to go.

My opinion on the coal train is that I don't approve of it. There is going to be too many issues and problems if they do it. It will be harmful to us and our environment because people like to eat sea food and it will be hard to breath. It will also make it difficult to do anything because it will be polluting our air. These are the reasons why I disagree on the coal train.