

# Safe Energy Leadership Alliance

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August 21, 2015

Port Metro Vancouver  
955 Centennial Road  
Vancouver BC  
V6A 1A3  
Sent via email

Subject: Permitting for Proposed Fraser Surrey Docks Direct Transfer Coal Facility (PP 2012-072)

Dear Directors:

We are members of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance (SELA) – a coalition of more than 160 local, state, and tribal leaders from across the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, and California – seeking a full assessment and disclosure of the economic, cultural, environmental, health, and safety risks posed by increasing coal and oil transport by rail and barge.

We are writing to express our serious concerns on the proposal (PP 2012-072) to ship low-grade thermal coal through the western United States to Port Metro Vancouver's Fraser Surrey Docks, and the potential impacts this will have for our constituents. We have also submitted these comments to the project proponents to be incorporated in the public record, but given that you are ultimately responsible for this decision, we believe it important we share our concerns directly with you.

The thermal coal that would be exported under this project originates from the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming, but it passes through many of our jurisdictions, impacting the health, safety, traffic, economy, and environment of our communities. Given historical development patterns, there are large population centers including some of our most vulnerable populations living along these corridors. Coal dust from open rail cars pollutes air, water, and soil, and exposes our communities to toxic heavy metals and health risks. Mile-and-a-half long coal trains delay traffic and emergency vehicles, create hazards at at-grade crossings, and displace other freight that brings greater added value to our economies. We have seen no commitments from railroads or shippers to pay for infrastructure improvements at at-grade crossings to address safety and traffic issues.

We understand you are facing an important decision for this project: amending the permit to allow direct loading of thermal coal onto ocean-going vessels, in addition to barge transport. This decision and the ultimate decision to grant the permit have implications far beyond the facility itself and your metropolitan region.

As members of SELA, we are bridging interests of urban and rural communities and standing together across borders to defend the health and safety of our residents in the face of ever-growing coal and crude oil shipments. To date, we do not believe the proposed Fraser Surrey Docks project has included an adequate review of downline rail impacts from 125 to 135-car unit trains carrying thermal coal, or the impacts of increased barge and now proposed ocean-going vessel traffic on the Fraser River or Salish Sea. Please stand with us and withhold permits or permit amendments for the Fraser Surrey Docks proposal until the proponent assesses and can demonstrate that it will prevent or mitigate safety risks and health and environmental impacts for all our communities.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Sally Bagshaw  
Councilmember, City of Seattle, WA



Lisa Batey  
Councilor, City of Milwaukie, OR



Arlene Burns  
Mayor, City of Mosier, OR



Tim Burgess  
Council President, City of Seattle, WA



Stephen Buxbaum  
Mayor, City of Olympia, WA



Joan Cathey  
Councilmember, City of Tumwater, WA



Reuven Carlyle  
Representative, State of Washington,  
36<sup>th</sup> District



Christine Cook  
Councilmember, City of Mukilteo, WA



Dow Constantine  
Executive, King County, WA  
Chair of SELA

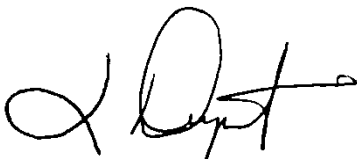


Peter Cornelison  
Councilor, City of Hood River, OR

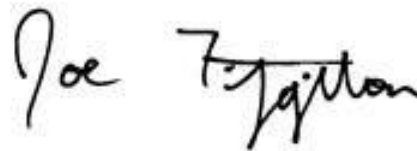


Jonathan Cote  
Mayor, City of New Westminster, BC

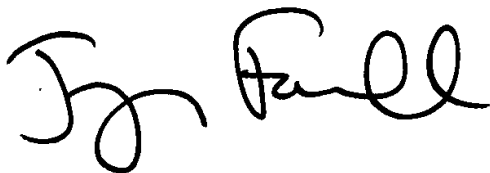
Mary Ann Dunwell  
Representative, State of Montana,  
84<sup>th</sup> District



Laura Dupont  
Councillor, City of Port Coquitlam, BC



Joe Fitzgibbon  
Representative, State of Washington,  
34<sup>th</sup> District



Jessyn Farrell  
Representative, State of Washington,  
46<sup>th</sup> District



Adrienne Fraley-Monillas  
Council President, City of Edmonds, WA



Jennifer Gregerson  
Mayor, City of Mukilteo, WA



Will Hall  
Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA



Dennis Higgins  
Councilmember, City of Kent, WA



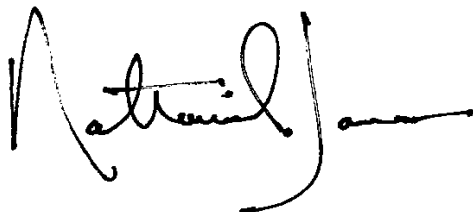
Katherine Haque-Hausrath  
Commissioner, City of Helena, MT



Sam Hunt  
Representative, State of Washington,  
22<sup>nd</sup> District



Stacia Jenkins  
Councilmember, City of Normandy Park,  
WA



Nathaniel Jones  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Olympia, WA



Patrick Johnstone  
Councillor, City of New Westminster, BC



Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
Senator, State of Washington, 36<sup>th</sup> District



Joyce Lindsay  
Councilmember, City of Washougal, WA



Carrie Logan  
Mayor, City of Sandpoint, ID



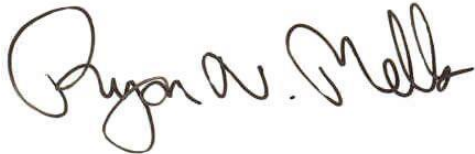
Liz Lovelett  
Councilmember, City of Anacortes, WA



Margie MacDonald  
Representative, State of Montana, 54<sup>th</sup> District



Doris McConnell  
Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA



Ryan Mello  
Councilmember, City of Tacoma, WA



Mike O'Brien  
Councilmember, City of Seattle, WA



Larry Phillips  
Council Chair, King County, WA



Karin Power  
Councilor, City of Milwaukie, OR



Chuck Puchmayr  
Councillor, City of New Westminster, BC



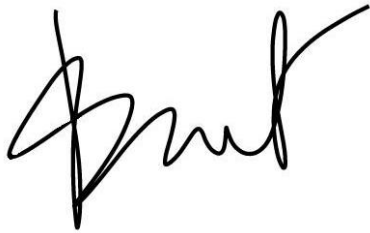
Chris Roberts  
Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA



Wayne Roth  
Deputy Mayor, City of Bainbridge Island, WA



Jesse Salomon  
Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA



Kshama Sawant  
Councilmember, City of Seattle, WA



Jon Snyder  
Councilmember, City of Spokane, WA



Ben Stuckart  
Council President, City of Spokane, WA

Harold Steves  
Councillor, City of Richmond, BC



Shannon Williamson  
Councilmember, City of Sandpoint, ID

cc: Fraser Surrey Docks via email to [amendment@fsd.bc.ca](mailto:amendment@fsd.bc.ca)  
Metro Vancouver Board of Directors via email to [chair@metrovanancouver.org](mailto:chair@metrovanancouver.org)  
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority via email to [patricia.daly@ych.ca](mailto:patricia.daly@ych.ca)  
Fraser Health Authority via email to [lisa.mu@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:lisa.mu@fraserhealth.ca)  
The Honorable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport via email to [mintc@tc.gc.ca](mailto:mintc@tc.gc.ca)