

Safe Energy Leadership Alliance

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.

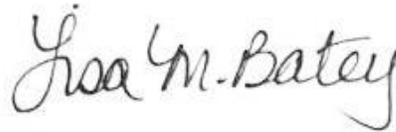
As members of SELA, we are bridging interests of urban and rural communities and standing together across borders to defend the health and safety of our residents in the face of ever-growing coal and crude oil shipments. To date, we do not believe the proposed Fraser Surrey Docks project has included 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



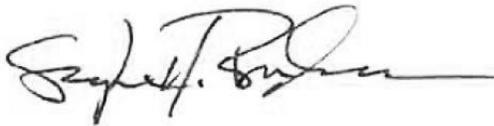
Lisa Batey
Councilor, City of Milwaukie, OR



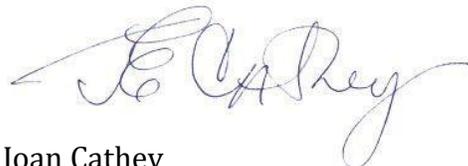
Arlene Burns
Mayor, City of Mosier, OR



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,
36th 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

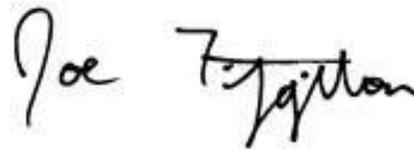


Jonathan Cote
Mayor, City of New Westminster, BC

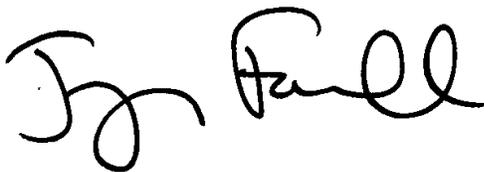
Mary Ann Dunwell
Representative, State of Montana,
84th District



Laura Dupont
Councillor, City of Port Coquitlam, BC



Joe Fitzgibbon
Representative, State of Washington,
34th District



Jessyn Farrell
Representative, State of Washington,
46th 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



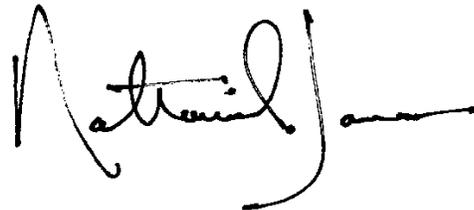
Katherine Haque-Hausrath
Commissioner, City of Helena, MT



Sam Hunt
Representative, State of Washington,
22nd 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, 36th 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, 54th 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
Metro Vancouver Board of Directors via email to chair@metrovancover.org
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority via email to patricia.daly@ych.ca
Fraser Health Authority via email to lisa.mu@fraserhealth.ca
The Honorable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport via email to mintc@tc.gc.ca