



November 21, 2017

The Honorable John Horgan  
Premier, British Columbia  
East Annex Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

The Honorable Andrew Weaver  
Member of the Legislative Assembly  
British Columbia  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Horgan and Doctor Weaver:

Congratulations on forming a new government committed to more sustainable future for our communities, environment, and economy in the Pacific Northwest. We are writing to express our thanks and support for your commitment to challenging the Canadian Government's approval of the Kinder Morgan Pipeline Expansion, which would increase risks of devastating oil spills in the Salish Sea and coastal waters on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. We respectfully request that you take action on another very important issue in our region: thermal coal exports.

We are members of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance (SELA), a coalition of more the 155 elected leaders for city, county, tribal, and state governments in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia advocating for full assessment of risks and costs of fossil fuel transport and export, and for more sustainable investment in clean energy. We share concerns about impacts of new fossil fuel infrastructure that endangers the health and safety of our residents, pollutes air and water, and threatens tribal treaty rights. These impacts - carried along rail and barge lines, through communities and across water bodies - affect our entire region. We have weighed in jointly and individually on oil and coal terminal proposals along the Columbia River, the Salish Sea, and Fraser River.

Pacific Northwest communities have come together to stave off five new proposals to export thermal coal. We have raised concerns about increased air and water quality pollution, impairment of Tribal treaty rights, health impacts along rail lines, traffic congestion and safety

issues at at-grade crossings, and economic impacts. However, our region is still threatened by active coal thermal export proposals on the Fraser River in British Columbia and the Columbia River on the Washington-Oregon border.

Coal trains bring air and water pollution and traffic congestion to hundreds of communities across the Pacific Northwest as they transport coal to Westshore terminals in British Columbia. On August 13th of this year, we saw the dramatic derailment of a unit coal train in Montana bound for the West Coast. That train dumped 30 cars of coal directly into, and adjacent to, the treasured Clark Fork River. Antiquated federal railroad laws in the U.S. and Canada limit local government authority to control these risks. We ask that you consider the regional impacts of thermal coal export facilities and use your authority stop their development.

Communities along rail lines face all the impacts and risks, but gain little or no economic benefit from this 19<sup>th</sup> century energy source. SELA will continue to express deep concerns about coal export infrastructure expansion in our region, and advocate for investment in more sustainable economic development, including renewable energy. SELA members are planning to hold the next SELA meeting in Northern Washington after the New Year. As details become more concrete, we hope we can extend you both an invitation to join us in a broader dialogue about protecting the region from the risks of coal and oil transport.

We hope you will do everything in your power to protect communities across the region from fossil fuel infrastructure projects that threaten public health and safety, water quality, and treaty rights. As elected leaders and members of SELA, we stand ready to support your efforts and look forward to working together for a cleaner, more sustainable region for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Arlene Burns  
Mayor, Mosier, OR



Joan Cathey  
Councilmember, Tumwater, WA



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive (WA)  
Chair of SELA



Christine Cook  
Councilmember, Mukilteo, WA



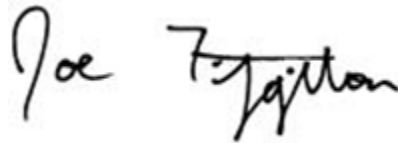
Jim Cooper  
Councilmember, Hood River, OR



Peter Cornelison  
Councilmember, Olympia, WA



Laura Dupont  
Councillor, Port Coquitlan, BC



Joe Fitzgibbon  
Washington State Representative (34<sup>th</sup> LD)



Adrienne Fraley-Monillas  
Councilmember, Edmonds, WA



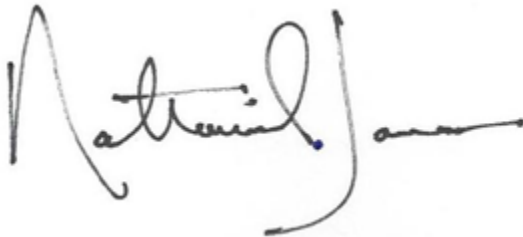
Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner, Portland, OR



Will Hall  
Councilmember, Shoreline, WA



Dennis Higgins  
Councilmember, Kent, WA



Nathaniel Jones  
Mayor Pro Tem, Olympia, WA



Ruth Kagi  
Washington State Representative (32nd LD)



Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
Councilmember, King County, WA



Michael Lilliquist  
Council President, Bellingham, WA



Liz Lovelett  
Councilmember, Anacortes, WA



Doris McConnell  
Councilmember, Shoreline, WA



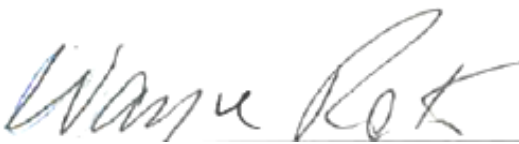
Kol Medina  
Councilmember, Bainbridge Island, WA

Chuck Puchmayr  
Councillor, New Westminster, BC



Chris Roberts  
Mayor, Shoreline, WA

Gregor Robertson  
Mayor, Vancouver, BC



Wayne Roth  
Councilmember, Bainbridge Island, WA

Harold Steves  
City Councillor, Richmond, BC



Ted Wheeler  
Mayor, Portland, OR

cc: The Honorable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy