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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

C/O GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies

1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400

Bellevue, Washington 98004

Incorporated 1889

Subject: EIS Scoping Comments from Livingston, MT

Dear Mr. Perry,

The City of Livingston, Montana, population 7,500, is bisected by the southern main line of the Montana Rail Link/Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad companies. The development of ports on Washington's coast will have an impact upon the City of Livingston by increasing train traffic. The City requests that the Army Corps expand its scope of the Environmental Impact Study for said ports to include an analysis of effects to the City of Livingston.

Increasing the number of trains through Livingston will exacerbate three issues currently facing Livingston, including 1. reduced access, 2. additional noise, and 3. potential health concerns from exhaust and coal dust.

- 1. Access.** As the City is bisected by the rail line, three railroad crossings, two at grade, and one underpass serve as access points. These crossings are currently stressed with re-routing and congestion issues. Increased traffic will in turn increase access issues for citizens, businesses and emergency response vehicles.
- 2. Noise.** Many citizens are currently impacted by train and whistle noise due to the central location of the rail line. Residents of Livingston have expressed considerable distress over potential increases in train noise from increased rail traffic.
- 3. Potential Health Hazards.** Potential health hazards, including exhaust from increased idle time from waiting motor vehicles, increased diesel exhaust from the trains themselves, and coal dust from moving trains are a concern for Livingston.

Please consider this request to address the impact of the development of Washington ports and associated increases to rail traffic on the City of Livingston.

Sincerely,

Steve Caldwell

City Commission Chairman

