



Port of Skagit

September 13, 2011

Department of Ecology
Environmental Review
P.O. Box 47703
Olympia WA 98504-7703

Re: Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Port of Skagit has received information presented to the Skagit Council of Governments in late July regarding the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal Project and our comments have been requested.

As a port we generally support projects such as this which have economic importance regionally and nationally. Also as a port, we do not consider it our role to become involved in the debate over many of the other non-economic issues (both pro and con) this project might entail. Our purpose is local economic development leading to the creation of good family wage jobs in our community. Let there be no doubt, the Gateway project as currently proposed will have a very significant negative impact on our local economy.

Specifically, a great deal of the job creating economic activity in our community is dependent upon ready east/west traffic movement of cars and trucks. There are some eight "at grade" rail crossings that currently block local business related traffic when trains pass through. Even the most cursory review of the Gateway proposal shows that the additional trains required to supply the new terminal with coal will further obstruct traffic, and have a negative impact on economic development in our community leading to a net loss of jobs. This problem could be at least partially solved by the construction of overpasses at certain key locations.

The Port of Skagit's support for this project is dependent upon solutions for at least the traffic issue being carefully studied, with the required funds to solve the problem being incorporated into the budget of the Gateway project itself, rather than taken from Port of Skagit taxpayers.

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The notion of "he who benefits pays" is considered fundamentally fair in America, and we believe it is fully applicable to the Gateway project's effect on our community.

We respectfully request that the project proponents be required to incorporate appropriate east/west transportation solutions with this project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Ware", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Ware

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Kaufman", with a large, stylized initial "J" and "K".

Jerry Kaufman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Shuler", with a stylized initial "B" and "S".

Bill Shuler