

December 4, 2012

## **Hundreds in Spokane Turn Out to Support Northwest Export Facilities**

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### ***Local Business and Labor Leaders Testify***

Spokane, WA – Supporting the importance of trade in the Pacific Northwest, local residents rallied today at the Spokane County Fairgrounds to stand up for thousands of new jobs that would be created from proposed bulk export facilities in Washington. They gathered at a public meeting on the Gateway Pacific Terminal in Whatcom County, Washington, a new export terminal that would export coal, among other commodities.

The Gateway project is one of several now under consideration in the Northwest. The projects would strengthen the region's export sector and provide thousands of family-wage jobs and economic benefits in rural communities in Oregon and Washington.

**Mike Fagan, Spokane City Councilman:** "We're talking about creating jobs — jobs that are sorely needed, and expanding our tax base. It's a good thing for everyone in our state."

**Ron Black, Spokane resident:** "This project means jobs, otherwise people need extended unemployment benefits and welfare. That's why I'm here."

**Wayne Brokaw, Executive Director of Inland Northwest Associated General Contractors (AGC):** "This is not a choice between the environment and the economy. We believe opponents to these projects are being less than honest to suggest that it is only about choice. We believe that each project will meet strict environmental reviews by local, state and federal agencies to ensure they are done right and create thousands of family wage jobs throughout the region."

**Matt McCoy, Interim Executive Director of the International Trade Association:** "The International Trade Association (ITA) exists to promote and facilitate exports, which in turn helps create living-wage jobs. The Gateway Pacific project will not only benefit the energy sector, it will also be beneficial to a number of other industries in our state, such as agriculture. The bottom line is that we would rather see this terminal built in Washington rather than see all the jobs and economic benefit be shipped up to Canada."

**Rich Hadley, CEO and President of Greater Spokane Incorporated:** "We favor a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed terminal site, and not a programmatic EIS, which would be area-wide. An area-wide analysis could establish a precedent that could be harmful to the shipment of other commodities and the development of other transportation projects that benefit our region, state and country. If future railway projects have to undergo an extensive EIS process, those projects might not even bother building in our state."

This is the fifth public scoping meeting in a series of seven conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology, and the Whatcom County Planning Department. The meetings come at a time when high unemployment and a stagnant economy have taken a particularly large toll on families across the state.

“Trade has been a critical part of the Pacific Northwest economy for more than 200 years,” said Bob Watters, Senior Vice President with SSA Marine. “The Gateway Pacific terminal will help us strengthen that tradition, by shipping a range of commodities. Current reports show 40% of jobs in the Northwest are related to international trade, making increasing exports a priority and a driver of economic growth. This terminal will help us generate more jobs for skilled laborers and millions more in funding for state and local budgets.”

Most Washingtonians support the projects. A public opinion poll released last month by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, the United Transportation Union, the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council showed residents support exports by a factor of 2:1. These results indicate consistent support for coal exports in comparison to [information](#) released in July by Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) that also showed 2:1 support for coal exports in the Northwest.

The Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports includes 51 members, representing 396,000 workers and more than 41,000 businesses across Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and continues to grow. The Alliance is dedicated to educating the public about the economic benefits of new shipping terminals and coal exports in Northwest states. The proposed facilities would bring in thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in revenue for schools and other services in local communities.

The polling result referenced was from a survey conducted by Gallatin Public Affairs on September 26-27, 2012. The sample size for the Washington State survey was 500 likely voters yielding a margin of error of +/- 4.38% at the 95% confidence level.

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