

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2012

Hundreds of Supporters Turn Out in Seattle for Northwest Export Facilities

Local Business and Labor Leaders Testify on Positive Impact for Jobs and Exports

Seattle, WA – Today the last of seven “scoping” meetings held around the state came to Seattle, gathering hundreds of supporters of jobs, trade and the environment, as the government took comments on a proposed new export facility in Washington state. Supporters came to the Washington State Convention Center for the meeting, including many from Whatcom County, where the proposed project would be located. The [scoping meeting](#) is intended to gather comments on the Gateway Pacific Terminal, a proposed multi-commodity, dry bulk cargo-handling facility that would export coal, among other commodities, creating thousands of new jobs and millions in tax benefits.

The Gateway project is one of several such terminals 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.

Among those speaking in support of the project over the course of the Scoping process:

Don Brunell, President of the Association of Washington Business: “One out of four people in Washington state has a job that relies on international trade. We believe the low-sulfur coal shipments from Montana and Wyoming are important to the economy of our region and to lowering emissions from foreign coal-fired power plants. It is important to understand those plants will continue to operate in countries like China. The only question is whether they use our lower emission coal or higher polluting coal from other countries.”

Jay Timmons, CEO, National Association of Manufacturers: “As we have seen over and over again, new and more bureaucratic red tape, as suggested by the opponents of construction, does nothing for the environment. The average comprehensive federal environmental review already takes years of study. Add another new layer and it will have a chilling effect on the Northwest region’s export economy.”

Gary Jensen, Mayor, Ferndale: “We should believe in the American worker. We should care about the engineer, inspector, longshoreman and workers who sacrifice their backs and hands with manual labor. We should believe they also care about us - their neighbors and their friends. They want to live well, earn a living and not harm our environment in the process. We should know that our concerns as to the handling of coal products are heard and acted upon. We should look with open minds to those solutions.”

United States Grains Council, in a statement submitted for the meeting: “In light of the rhetoric surrounding the Gateway Pacific Terminal project, we are somewhat concerned that political influence will culminate in an environmental impact statement (EIS) that makes it impossible for the company to comply in a reasonable fashion. What the public wants and expects is compliance with prudent environmental standards and the potential this project has to create new jobs. These prerequisites are not mutually exclusive of one another; and, in fact, that objective has been demonstrated by other port infrastructure projects throughout the United States. The United States Grain Council is a strong proponent of port infrastructure investment, including the GPT project.”

The Seattle meeting is the last of seven public scoping meetings conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology, and 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.

“Global trade presents the greatest potential for economic growth, particularly in Washington state where current statistics show 40% of all jobs in the Northwest are tied to international trade,” said Bob Watters, Senior Vice President with SSA Marine. “For more than 200 years trade has been essential to the Pacific Northwest economy.”

Most Washingtonians support the projects. A public opinion poll released last month by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, United Transportation Union, and 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 to [information](#) released in July by Oregon Public Broadcasting that also showed 2:1 support for coal exports in the Northwest.

The Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports includes 52 members, representing more than 396,000 workers and 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 thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in revenue for schools and other services in local communities.

Contact: Press Office for the Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports
206.268.2253 | info@CreateNWJobs.com

