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Trade, Transport, Labor and Manufacturing Leaders to Support Jobs and Coal Exports in the Northwest

Alliance for Northwest Jobs and Exports Urges Supporters to Attend Scoping Meetings around Export

Terminals, Advocate for Strengthening Local Economies

SEATTLE, Wash. – The Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports is urging supporters from around the region to attend seven scoping meetings scheduled in Washington State, focusing on proposed coal export terminals. These terminals will advance responsible development of our regional trade economy, bringing needed jobs, investment and tax revenue to the Pacific Northwest, and the Alliance is a non-profit trade organization dedicated to supporting them.

The Alliance represents a strong and diverse coalition of businesses, labor, trade, civic and other organizations. Its growing membership already represents nearly 250,000 workers and 40,000 businesses – all sharing a commitment to building the region's trade infrastructure to create jobs and economic prosperity.

"Economic recovery is slow across many sectors in the Northwest, particularly labor," said Herb Krohn, Washington State Legislative Director for the United Transportation Union. "We need to get involved, take action and stimulate job growth by supporting exports through our region."

For generations, trade has been a backbone of the Pacific Northwest economy, with 1 in 4 jobs directly tied to the industry. These proposed export terminals fit squarely into that tradition. Terminals would create thousands of new jobs and generate millions in annual tax revenues, providing a needed boost for local and state budgets, with more money for schools, emergency responders, and other community services.

The majority of people in the region support these projects, knowing they can be built and operated safely and responsibly, respecting the Northwest's strong commitment to environmental stewardship. Polls show two-to-one support for moving forward with the proposed projects.

Increased demand for exports to Asia has led other countries to aggressively upgrade their own trade infrastructure. To remain competitive, Alliance members believe the Northwest needs to invest in new export infrastructure, and take advantage of the economic opportunities made available by exporting coal.

"With the demand for exports growing, increased trade can bring enormous benefits to this region," said Lauri Hennessey, spokesperson for the Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports. "We can build these projects right, benefitting from jobs and new tax revenue while ensuring proper environmental safeguards. These projects will create new jobs and tax revenues now, and a stronger regional economy for future generations."

The Alliance is dedicated to educating the public about the benefits of exports to jobs and the economy and ensuring an accurate discussion of the issues and the facts.

"While most people support these projects, right now we're hearing from a loud minority and it's time to tell our story," said Hennessey. "We have a choice. We can build these projects here and benefit from the jobs and new tax revenue, or we can sit back and watch them go somewhere else. These projects are good for the Northwest."

Supporters of the Alliance include:

- Agrium, Inc.
- Ambre Energy North America, Inc.
- American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington
- Arch Coal
- Associated Industries of Spokane
- Association of Washington Business
- Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau
- BNSF
- Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, Washington State Legislative Board
- Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Carpenters Industrial Council
- Cloud Peak Energy
- Gunderson LLC
- Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry
- Idaho Chamber Alliance
- International Trade Alliance
- J.R. Simplot Company
- JH Kelly
- Montana Chamber of Commerce
- Montana Coal Council
- Montana Contractors' Association

- Montana Rail Link, Inc.
- National Association of Manufacturers
- National Mining Association
- Oregon Building Trades Council
- Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
- Pacific Northwest International Trade Association
- Peabody Energy
- Portland & Western Railroad, Inc.
- Portland Business Alliance
- Southeastern Montana
 Development Corporation
- SSA Marine
- Tidewater
- Union Pacific
- United Transportation Union -Montana State Legislative Board
- United Transportation Union -Oregon State Legislative Board
- United Transportation Union -Washington State Legislative Board
- Vigor Industrial
- Washington Farm Bureau
- Washington Farm Labor Association
- Western Business Roundtable
- Western Environmental Trade Association
- Wyoming Mining Association

About the Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports

The Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports is a non-profit trade organization advancing export infrastructure to strengthen regional trade economies in the Pacific Northwest. The Alliance represents a strong labor and business coalition comprised of trade, transport, labor organizations, manufacturing, businesses, civic groups and others who support expanding regional exports for the economic benefits. The proposed terminals would create thousands of new jobs and generate millions in additional tax revenue for schools and other services.

For more information, visit www.CreateNorthwestJobs.com.

Contact

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