

ALLIANCE FOR
NORTHWEST JOBS & EXPORTS

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Supporters in Vancouver Turn Out to Advocate for Northwest Export Facilities

Local Business and Labor Leaders Testify

Vancouver, WA – In a show of support for the Pacific Northwest trade industry, local residents rallied today at Clark College's Graiser Student Center to advocate for proposed bulk export facilities in Northwest Washington. The scoping meeting seeks to gather comments on the Gateway Pacific Terminal, a proposed Whatcom County 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.

Robert Hill, Legislative Representative for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen (BLET): "The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen is in full support of the proposed coal export terminals in Oregon and Washington State. Our Local Division 758 is pushing back against those who believe that making a larger point about coal is more important than creating well-paying jobs. There is a vigorous federal and local review process in place to ensure these terminals are built in a way that is both environmentally responsible and safe, and we respect that."

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, including families right here in Vancouver, where the unemployment rate has been about 10 percent since 2008. 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."

United States Grains Council, in a statement submitted for hearing: "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.”

Myrna Miller, Vancouver resident: “This is a depressed area. People need to work and want to be put back to work with good paying jobs. I can’t stress that enough. We can’t expect the government to feed us.”

This is the sixth 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 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 in thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in revenue for schools and other services in local communities.

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