Dear Governor Inslee:

CC Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council and Commissioner Peter Goldmark:

We are Southwest Washington business leaders and owners who stand together to oppose the proposal to build the largest oil terminal in the Pacific Northwest at the Port of Vancouver and also the largest coal export terminals in North America in Cherry Point and Longview.

These oil and coal proposals would be a step backward from our efforts to make Vancouver and Clark County a vibrant place to visit, live, and work. We are experiencing a rebirth, with a new Columbia River waterfront development coming into Vancouver, and with many new businesses growing and making southwest Washington their home. The health of the Columbia River is improving, with over $500 million having been spent in the river’s renewal.

Carriers of crude oil have had six railroad accidents involving dangerous fires and explosion between July 6, 2013, and January 7, 2014; several of these accidents caused serious human casualties. In January 2014 the National Transportation Safety Board made the recommendation that oil trains be routed around populated areas. The areas surrounding the train tracks in southwest Washington are both densely populated and adjacent to the Columbia River, so the consequences of a derailment, explosion, or oil spill could be devastating.

Similarly, coal export proposals in Longview and Cherry Point would route nearly twenty coal trains through southwest Washington. These trains are nearly a mile and a half long, led by four train engines, and emit a significant amount of diesel pollution and coal dust. Because of the length and quantity of trains they would impede the flow of traffic and access to neighborhoods and commercial districts.

As business leaders and owners in the great State of Washington we are proud to join a broad coalition of civic leaders, local governments, health care professionals, environmental organizations and many others in the efforts to deny the dangerous Tesoro/Savage oil proposal and Ambre Energy/Arch Coal, SSA Marine/Peabody Energy proposals to export coal through Washington.

We thank you for your leadership in considering and confronting all the challenges that are before our state, including the broad scope of review that the Department of Ecology has taken for the Cherry Point and Longview terminals. We ask that you also perform an economic impact study of the risks that coal and oil will pose to the state. Please continue pushing for what is best for the state, not what only benefits the few and puts at great risk the many. We urge you to decide in favor of a vibrant future for the City of Vancouver, Clark County and the State of Washington and deny these oil and coal projects.

POWER PAST COAL  communities against coal export
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