

Resolution Opposing the Siting of a Coal Terminal at Cherry Point

WHEREAS several coal and transportation companies propose to ship millions of tons of coal to Asian markets from the Gateway Pacific Terminal at Cherry Point, Washington;

WHEREAS the proposal could result in more than 400 cape-class ships departing annually from Cherry Point through Washington state waters and on through the narrow Unimak Pass in the Aleutian Islands;

WHEREAS the proposed shipments would number at least 18 transits a day by trains 125-150 cars long and require up to 100 acres of storage for coal and machinery at the Cherry Point stockyard and an average of 5.3 million gallons of water per day to cool stockpiled coal;

WHEREAS the Cherry Point stockyard is located on a well documented 3,500-year-old Lummi village site and lies within an 1,100-acre archaeological project area, including a site (45WH1) listed on the Washington Register of Historic Places;

WHEREAS environmental risks are unavoidable in shipping coal in open railroad containers and in shipment through adjacent marine waters that are critical for crabbing and for herring and salmon fisheries, not only in the Salish Sea but throughout the Strait of Juan de Fuca;

WHEREAS vessel routes and associated risks represent unavoidable interference with treaty rights and all fishing in the Salish Sea and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, as well as neighboring Pacific Ocean waters, all involving the existence of more than 60,000 jobs in the commercial and sport fisheries;

WHEREAS one of the proponent companies, PIT/SSA Marine, agreed to a settlement in a lawsuit that established that the company had engaged in unpermitted bulldozing at the site for the sake of financial gain;

WHEREAS bunkering coal ships in Port Angeles Harbor would create mitigation expenses and present risks of environmental damage; and

WHEREAS we support protecting the natural environments of all ports not just Cherry Point and other areas would be affected.

41 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party opposes
42 permitting or siting to allow the transportation of any additional coal through the state
43 of Washington or Cherry Point; and
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45 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
46 Party opposes the Cherry Point proposal and requests our Washington state and federal
47 elected officials to oppose transporting coal through the state of Washington for export
48 at Cherry Point.
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51 Submitted by the Native American Caucus to the Washington State Democratic Central
52 Committee for consideration at its September 21, 2013 meeting in Ocean Shores.
53 (Date Submitted 9/21/2013)
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55 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee had "NO RECOMMENDATION" on this
56 resolution at its September 21, 2013 meeting in Ocean Shores.
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58 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its September 21, 2013 meeting in Ocean
59 Shores.