

For Immediate Release: June 3, 2014

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Washington and Wyoming Residents Protest Gov. Mead's Coal Export Tour
Message is clear: No coal wanted in Longview

Longview, WA – Wyoming Governor Matt Mead's coal tour of Longview, Washington received a cold welcome from local residents. While Governor Mead toured the facility, Longview residents gathered outside, waving "No Coal" signs.

"Washington citizens are saying 'no' to dirty coal export. Governor Mead's pro-coal tour is an attempt to bully us into accepting his dirty coal trains that will clog our intersections and harm our health," said Diane Dick, vice president of Cowlitz County's Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community. "No amount of lobbying can change our minds."

"The benefits the governor seeks for Wyoming are dwarfed by the damage mining and exporting coal would bring to his own people, the people of Longview, and the rest of the world," said Reverend Kathleen Patton of Longview. "The time has long passed for this dangerous fossil fuel. Mining it, shipping it, burning it, breathing it causes harm that starts in Wyoming, flows down the Columbia River, then goes around the world and comes right back to us in the form of ocean acidification, air pollution, and climate change."

Not all Wyoming citizens were happy about the Governor's trip either:

"While Gov. Mead looks for new markets for dirty Wyoming coal, I hope he remembers that the future of Wyoming and the world is beyond burning fossil fuels," stated Cheyenne, Wyoming resident Marguerite Herman. "We should be exploring energy sources that don't contribute to climate change and destroy Wyoming's rangeland."

This visit comes on the heels of Governor Mead's approval of a state budget that prevented adoption of science curriculum that treated climate change as fact.

The Longview terminal is one of three remaining proposals in Washington and Oregon; three proposals have been pulled off the table in the last two years. The proponents of the terminal include Ambre Energy, its American subsidiary Millennium Bulk Logistics, and Arch Coal.

The Longview coal export proposal has a rocky history. In 2011, a legal challenge exposed internal documents showing that Ambre and their US subsidiary Millennium Bulk Logistics lied to Cowlitz County and state officials about the size of their project, claiming it would ship five million tons per year when they planned a project more than 10 times that size.

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