

Dear Ms. Placido:

I am unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 11 of the HIA. As a practicing physician, in hematology and oncology, and living here in Longview along with my children and grandchildren, I wish to communicate to you and the committee my strong reservations and concerns regarding this proposed project by MBT.

I would initially state that, from prior industrial spillage and wastes and environmental abuse, this community has borne huge health consequences, along with environmental toxicities, resulting in some of the worse overall health as a populace and county in the state of Washington. Now to dare even consider to again submit our Longview citizens to the risks of increasing that toll is not possible to fathom. From cancers to cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, pulmonary and allergic diseases, -----this community cannot bear more of these burdens. Despite what the MBT personnel try to minimize or mitigate, these illnesses will occur.

All day, every day, I see and treat patients with cancer. For me, and for them, cancer is not a statistic. For them, it is 100%. I have never had one patient, over nearly 5 decades, not ask me how did they get this cancer. Cancers will occur from these multiple emissions of diesel fumes, particulate matter, coal dusts, surfactant exposures, and the accompanying exposures to the multitude of toxic chemicals, such as arsenic, mercury, lead, benzenes, et al.

MBT may state that the statistics are low. Yet, I see these patients every day----all of whom say to me the same thing----that the statistics were so low! But what I know from all these years and patients, is that statistics prove that these diseases happen! They are real, and life altering, if not life ending.

A wise professor of Public Health once said to me that statistics are patients, with the tears removed. In my life, that is profoundly true.

Added to these known diseases, are the other substantial accompanying hazards, such as major and prolonged delays of all traffic, especially emergency vehicles and first responders, increasing river traffic with their incumbent risks for accidents and pilot error or misjudgement or shifting sand bars, excessive noise of the train traffic, and the ever present risks for train accidents along the long and tortuous tracks from the source to Longview, the mountain pile of coal, and the relentless inclement weather and earthquake potentials.

The area of our community closest to this proposed undertaking is already significantly affected by poor health and wellbeing. This project would only add to their burden and ill health.

Those of you sitting at the table discerning what are the substantial costs and risks of this venture, need to know that the very real and potential cancers that will develop, will likely not occur to you. These leukemias and various cancers will occur to our children and grandchildren. The cardiovascular and cerebrovascular and pulmonary diseases can certainly occur in us; the malignancies will occur to our young ones as they grow older; time is necessary for these exposures to wreak their havoc.

This is not the legacy and inheritance anyone would willfully and knowingly subject their heirs. As human beings, parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, relatives, that is all of us, it is incumbent for us to protect the future for those that follow, especially for the young, the most vulnerable.

Lastly I am deeply aware of the economic concerns and need for sustainable and durable jobs in our community. The economic wellbeing of our community is also about healthy living and healthy jobs and environment, which thus would be a magnet for outsiders to move here and work here, and for companies to locate and thrive here.

I wish we were having a different conversation, but as this proposed project has morphed from a small or moderate one to this giant coal way-station, where there are accompanying increased risks and hazards, from the long rail journey, the stored mountain of coal, and the subsequent loading of ships and shipping out the Columbia , across the bar, to eventually Asia, so has morphed the health and medical risks and consequences.

The enmity and bitterness caused by this divisive issue has adversely affected our community's health, fitness, and wellness. Hope in the future has been worsened. I see this all around our community. Our deep water port is calling for a different use and future.

I am a physician. It is my solemn obligation and commitment to protect the health and wellbeing of our fellow citizens. I took an oath to do this.

Very sincerely,

Stephen G Chandler, MD.

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