



May 14, 2017

RE: U.S. Thermal Coal Ban

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We appreciate your letter dated May 5, 2017 to Premier Clark regarding her request that the Federal Government implement a ban on the shipment of thermal coal through British Columbia ports.

As you have noted, a commitment from both provincial and federal governments to fight climate change and protect our environment seems to be a shared concern, and we trust that you will take a serious look at what Premier Clark is proposing and see how this might work.

Our Society formed four years ago in the federal riding of South Surrey-White Rock over concerns about a proposal to ship U.S. thermal coal from Wyoming's Powder River Basin through Vancouver's Lower Mainland, and ultimately bound for export to foreign markets. Our Society quickly grew to include hundreds of residents, and went beyond our riding to include others along the proposed coal route, including Delta, Surrey Centre, New Westminster-Burnaby and Steveston-Richmond East. Understandably, concerns with these shipments include climate change, environmental damage, and increased noise, as well as blocked emergency access by these extremely long trains, for homes located in the community of Crescent Beach. In addition, health issues are top of mind, as thermal coal transport creates a tremendous amount of dust, and the diesel particulates emitted by these trains are known carcinogens.

In less than 6 months, our Society collected nearly 13,000 signatures from residents on a petition, asking for a Health Impact Assessment on the proposal by an independent third party. In addition, our Society has support from 9 municipalities, over 100 businesses, unions, scholars, scientists, MLAs, and MPs, with our petition presented in the House of Commons 3 times. But most importantly, we had the local Health Authorities on our side, who felt this project was deeply flawed.

We understand that your Government has taken the Paris Accord seriously and is looking at ways to meet its targets. If this project goes forward, it would pump nearly seven million tonnes of CO2 emissions into the atmosphere each year. Currently, Tsawwassen's Westshore Terminals receives approximately 8 million metric tonnes of U.S. thermal coal annually for export, travelling on the very same route, through our communities.

Further, with the United States facing roadblocks to the export of its own thermal coal through U.S. Ports, due to strict environmental and Aboriginal regulations, Canada is seen as an easy conduit to get this coal out before the world transitions to a cleaner future.

There is much at stake, and we applaud your Government for looking at this seriously. We hope that you will conclude that there are other industries on which Canada and the United States should focus to strengthen our relationship; U.S. thermal coal should not be one of them.

Sincerely,

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