

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2013

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

As Members of the U.S. House of Representatives who serve the citizens of Oregon we are writing to strongly urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct a full environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed coal export facility at the Port of Morrow in Boardman.

During the past months we have heard from a great number of our constituents who have raised serious and legitimate concerns about potential health, environmental, safety, and economic impacts of exporting coal through the Pacific Northwest.

Despite these concerns, the proposed facility at the Port of Morrow is the only coal export proposal in the Pacific Northwest where the USACE has not already made an initial determination to conduct an EIS.

Given the agency's determination to forgo an environmental assessment in favor of an EIS for the Gateway Pacific Terminal project at Cherry Point across the Columbia River in Washington State, it is unclear to us why the same determination was not made for the Port of Morrow project. We believe Oregonians deserve the same robust analysis and information as Washingtonians.

An EIS would address critical issues important to Oregonians and decision-makers alike, including: health and air quality impacts resulting from coal dust, potential pollution of the Columbia River and local waterways, forced delays in emergency response times of area responders, barge and/or rail congestion – just to name a few.

Moreover, it strikes us that an EIS at the Port of Morrow is very likely required under the National Environmental Policy Act and that failure to conduct an EIS can be reasonably expected to result in substantial delays, costly litigation against the Agency, and in the end you will likely be forced to do an EIS.

Accordingly, we urge the USACE in the strongest possible terms to avoid unnecessary regulatory delay, save taxpayers money, and provide the same detailed analysis and information to Oregonians as you will to Washingtonians by making an immediate decision to conduct an EIS for the Port of Morrow project.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress