



July 4, 2013

Greg Moore, Chair
Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD)/Metro Vancouver
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4G8

Dear Chair Moore,

Re: Proposals to Develop Coal Shipping Facilities within the Port Metro Vancouver System

District of Sparwood Council unanimously supported a resolution at their Meeting of June 24, 2013 regarding support for the expansion of coal shipping facilities within the Port Metro Vancouver system. Council is writing to express our strong and unwavering support for BC's coal industry and the economic activity and jobs created in our community, region, province, and country through the coal supply chain.

Coal mining is part of Sparwood's history. It has been our economic heart for more than 100 years. It is this connection to the coal supply chain that creates high paying employment opportunities for families in our community, throughout the province and across the country. The coal mining industry creates over 26,000 jobs in mining, transport, equipment and other related sectors, and generates over \$5 billion in economic activity each year, including about \$400 million in revenues that go to support critical public services such as health care and education. Restricting or delaying the development of the coal supply chain will result in the loss of a livelihood for a significant number of families in British Columbia and impact the government's ability to deliver public services.

Research has noted that coal is not a toxic substance and is, in fact, inert. Transport Canada does not classify coal as a dangerous or hazardous material and further, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) does not list coal as possibly carcinogenic to humans or as a carcinogenic agent. As for the environmental and safety regulations that are in place regarding Canada's mining operations, the regulatory expectations are among the highest in the world. Precautions are taken every step of the way to ensure the health and safety of the communities not only where mines are located, but along the rail lines as well.

Dust suppression systems, monitoring, and investigation programs are extensive. They are present in all of the region's terminals and any concerns are fully investigated. Additionally, discharge of air or water from a terminal is regulated and controlled by permit.

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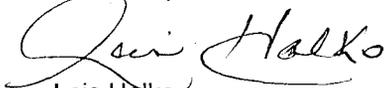
Rail carriers within the Province of BC have also taken it upon themselves to implement dust mitigation programs which have been designed to address concerns related to dust releases from rail cars that are in transit.

Coal is important to the District of Sparwood, the Province of BC, and Canada. It is an important commodity for steel and energy production on a global scale - so much so that the coal exports from the Elk Valley alone account for 1% of the GDP. Steelmaking coal is a vital part of everyday life around the world. It is used to produce household appliances, automobiles, accommodations, rapid transit vehicles, and business infrastructure. As the lower mainland looks to expand its rapid transit system, steel made from coal remains an important part of that expansion plan. Let us not forget that steel also is critical in green energy production and that 100 tonnes of steelmaking coal is required to produce the 185 tonnes of steel used in a typical wind turbine.

The impact of coal from a global perspective is also worth noting. Not only is the use of coal as an energy source critical to developed and developing nations economies, almost half of the world's population relies on coal as their primary energy source. Quality of life, as well as economic improvement is related to access to electricity. Without this access, millions of people will remain in poverty.

Rigorous regulatory and environmental processes, along with the responsibility for public consultation on projects such as the port expansion need to continue to occur. Respectful dialogue and fact driven information that recognizes all sides of the discussion is critical to this process. As part of this process, the District of Sparwood would like to reiterate our strong support for the important role BC's coal industry plays in the economic lives of British Columbians.

Yours truly,



Lois Halke
Mayor

RM/rm

pc: Robin Silvester, President and CEO; Port Metro Vancouver
Paul Van Buynder, VP, Public Health/Chief Medical Officer; Fraser Health Authority
Members of the UBCM
Dave Wilks, MP Kootenay Columbia
Honourable Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East
District of Elkford
City of Fernie
Municipality of Crowsnest Pass
Regional District of East Kootenay
Teck Coal Ltd.