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July 24, 2015

Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, D.C. 20310

Re: Gateway Pacific Terminal

Dear Ms. Darcy:

North America's Building Trades Unions (Building Trades) is a labor organization composed of fourteen national and international labor unions in the construction industry, and 293 State and local building and construction trades councils throughout the United States. Together, our affiliated unions represent 3 million working men and women. On behalf of the Building Trades, I am writing to urge the Army Corps to complete the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal project in Whatcom County, Washington.

The Gateway Pacific Terminal project would be an economic boon to Northwest Washington. The \$665 million project is expected to create 4,400 jobs during construction and to result in 1,250 new jobs through its ongoing operations. But these benefits have been jeopardized by indications that the Army Corps' Regional Office may prematurely stop the EIS process, potentially killing the project. It is my understanding that the Regional Office may take this wasteful and unnecessary step because of the Lummi Nation's concerns about the project's effect on their fishing rights under the Treaty of Point Elliot.

The Army Corps should complete the EIS process because it is designed to study and address the very concerns raised by the Lummi Nation. The EIS process has been underway since 2012, and the co-lead agencies, including the Army Corps, expect to publish a draft EIS in the spring of 2016. During the initial scoping process, the agencies sought public comment on the items that should be addressed by the EIS. Based on these comments, including those from the Lummi Indian Business Council, the co-lead agencies decided to include both cultural resources

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and tribal treaty rights in the scope of analysis for the EIS.¹ Data gathered on these issues during the EIS analysis will permit the stakeholders to evaluate the Lummi Nation's objections to the project.

In addition, the Lummi Nation will have additional opportunities during the EIS process to voice their concerns. Once the draft EIS is published, the public will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the draft and to participate in public hearings. Stopping the EIS process now would preclude the Army Corps from gathering the information that it needs to evaluate the Lummi Nation's objections to the project, and it would prevent the public and other stakeholders from having the opportunity to review and comment on the EIS. Accordingly, I urge you to take action to ensure that the EIS process is completed.

Sincerely,



Sean McGarvey,
President

cc: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Lee Newgent, Washington State Building Trades

¹ See Scoping Summary Report, Published March 29, 2013, available at <http://www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov>.