

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**  
County Courthouse  
311 Grand Ave. Suite #108  
Bellingham, WA 98225



**Pete Kremen**  
County Executive

November 14, 2011

Senators Ranker, Swecker, Murray, Fraser, Kohl-Welles, Nelson, Harper, Shin, Regala, Kline, Conway, Chase and Keiser

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your letter of November 3. Whatcom County acknowledges the concern about the extent of the environmental review for the Gateway Pacific Terminal project. A number of steps have been taken, by the County, to ensure that the scope of the environmental analysis is appropriate. This includes coming to agreement with the Department of Ecology to be co-lead agency for SEPA purposes. These actions will help to ensure regional and statewide issues of the project be disclosed and addressed during the scoping and development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

As noted above, Whatcom County is aware of the regional and statewide significant impacts that may be caused by this proposal. These impacts include the statewide rail traffic, and although we do not consider the statewide rail traffic to be part of the 'proposal' itself, it is anticipated that the environmental review will include an analysis of the rail impacts to determine the effects on the community.

The scoping process is vital to facilitating a comprehensive EIS. It is imperative that public involvement continue through this process. The scope of the EIS will be determined based on comments received by citizens, community groups, tribes, affected jurisdictions, and other agencies. These comments and input will be reviewed and will help guide Whatcom County, the Department of Ecology, and the United States Army Corp of Engineers in determining what studies and what scope of review is needed to provide for a thorough and complete EIS. The EIS will provide a factual basis for use when making future land use decisions on the project.

I appreciate your concerns, and thank you for writing. The process can be followed through our county website at [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/plan/current/gpt-ssa/index.jsp](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/plan/current/gpt-ssa/index.jsp). The lead Whatcom County planner for this project is Tyler Schroeder. He can be reached at 360 676 6907.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Kremen".

Pete Kremen  
County Executive