



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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August 19, 2011

The Honorable Ron Wesen  
The Honorable Kenneth Dahlstedt  
The Honorable Sharon Dillon  
Skagit County Board of County Commissioners  
1800 Continental Place, Suite 100  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5625

**Re: Gateway Pacific Terminal Project**

Dear Commissioners Wesen, Dahlstedt and Dillon:

Thank you for your letter of July 28, 2011, to Governor Gregoire regarding the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal at Cherry Point. The Governor has asked me to respond to your letter.

Your letter expresses numerous concerns regarding the regional impacts of additional rail traffic through Skagit County, as well as concern about the safety of the BNSF bridge over the Skagit River. Ecology, along with Whatcom County and the Corps of Engineers, intends to conduct a comprehensive environmental review of the proposed project, including statewide impacts related to transportation. I assure you that our review will be robust. The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires consideration of alternatives, and the alternatives to be analyzed will be carefully chosen. There will be several opportunities for jurisdictions to comment during the public process, and I urge you to provide your input at that time as well.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jeannie Summerhays, Director of our Northwest Regional Office, at [jeannie.summerhays@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jeannie.summerhays@ecy.wa.gov) / (425)-649-7010.

Sincerely,

Ted Sturdevant  
Director

cc: Phil Anderson WDFW  
Peter Goldmark, DNR  
Paula Hammond, WSDOT  
Marty Loesch, Office of the Governor  
Richard Weyrich, Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney



Skagit County Board of County Commissioners  
August 19, 2011  
Page 2

bcc: Faith Lumsden  
Keith Phillips  
Karen Terwilleger