

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING THE	)	RESOLUTION NO. 12-4367A
METRO COUNCIL TO CALL ON THE	)	
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A	)	Introduced by Councilor Rex Burkholder
THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE POTENTIAL	)	
IMPACTS OF LARGE SCALE COAL EXPORTS	)	
ON THE ECONOMY, TRANSPORTATION	)	
SYSTEM, AIR QUALITY, ENVIRONMENT	)	
AND PEOPLE OF THE PORTLAND	)	
METROPOLITAN AREA	)	

WHEREAS, there is an unprecedented number of coal export proposals pending in the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon; and

WHEREAS, current proposals could result in an additional 157 million tons of coal exports coming through the Pacific Northwest by train and by barge; and

WHEREAS, this increase in coal exports will require up to 60 additional trains coming through the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area and into Oregon and Washington; and

WHEREAS, each of these additional trains may include 125 uncovered cars each totaling 1 ½ miles in length; and

WHEREAS, fifty of the crossings these trains will use throughout the Portland metropolitan region are at street level, which may cause significantly increased congestion and noise, impacts to public safety, and delays in emergency response; and

WHEREAS, this additional train congestion may impede local jurisdictions' plans for community development and the achievement of local aspirations; and

WHEREAS, this additional train congestion may restrict commerce and the movement of goods in the region, including agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, the significant increase of train and towboat diesel particulate matter and coal dust may increase incidence of asthma; impaired pulmonary development among adolescents; heart attack and stroke among adults; chronic bronchitis; emphysema; and

Whereas, the continued use of coal as a primary energy source undermines the region's ability to achieve its desired outcomes for successful community, including the region's goal of leadership in addressing climate change, and

Whereas the continued use of coal as a primary energy source also runs directly counter to the region's efforts to reduce carbon emissions from transportation through the state-mandated Climate Smart Communities program;

WHEREAS, Metro is the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for air quality, state carbon reduction plan implementation, and transportation planning in the Portland metropolitan region; now therefore;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council calls on the federal government to conduct a thorough review of the cumulative potential impacts of large scale coal exports on the region's economy, transportation system, air quality, public health, environment and people of the Portland metropolitan area, and directs Metro staff to communicate this request with our federal elected officials and appropriate federal agencies.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September 2012.

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Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:

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Alison Kean Campbell, Metro Attorney