

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

March 25, 2013

Maia Bellon, Director
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Ms. Bellon:

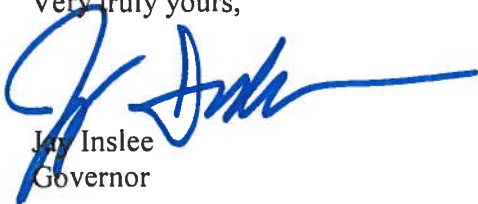
Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber and I today jointly sent the enclosed letter to the President's Council on Environmental Quality, calling on the federal government to evaluate the effects of the leasing and export of the nation's coal reserves.

I believe it is necessary and appropriate for the federal government to complete an examination of the effects of continued coal leasing and export before making long-term investments in expanding this trade. I also believe they should determine the proper policies for pricing coal leases from federal lands, both as a matter of securing a fair return for this resource, and to account for the costs of resulting emissions to our businesses and communities. These steps are needed for the nation to make sound decisions as the international demand for coal resources continues to grow, and to meet our obligation to future generations.

For these reasons, I joined Governor Kitzhaber in asking the federal government to step up and undertake this comprehensive review.

I emphasize in the letter that no final decisions have been made on the applications for state permits for the proposed coal export facilities that would be located in our state. Washington State must remain committed to a rigorous, fair and objective process to review these applications, within the scope of our laws. I know you share this commitment and will execute your regulatory role accordingly.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee
Governor

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands
Phil Anderson, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Lynn Peterson, Secretary, Department of Transportation
Dave Danner, Chair, Utilities and Transportation Commission

