



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

April 26, 2017

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Parliament Hill
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

Fax: 613-941-6900

EMAIL: pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

RE: Prohibiting Thermal Coal Exports from British Columbia Ports

In the wake of the decision by the U.S. Department of Commerce to impose unfair and unwarranted duties on Canadian and British Columbia softwood lumber, I told British Columbians that I would use every tool at our disposal to ensure we get a fair deal on softwood lumber.

In the meantime, we would like to work with you today to take action on a matter we have been considering for some time.

For many years, a high volume of U.S. thermal coal has been shipped through BC on its way to Asia. It's not good for the environment, but friends and trading partners cooperate. So we haven't pressed the issue with the federal government that regulates the port.

Clearly, the United States is taking a different approach. So, I am writing you today to ban the shipment of thermal coal from BC ports.

Thermal coal is the most carbon dioxide-intensive form of conventional fossil fuel energy production and has an emissions intensity level that is nearly twice that of natural gas. Banning its transport through Canada would be consistent with the efforts of both British Columbia and Canada to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

As you may know, over the past five years, every proposed coal export facility on the West Coast of the United States has been rejected or withdrawn, typically as a result of ecological or environmental concerns.

.../2

Office of the
Premier

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

website:
www.gov.bc.ca

For years, American thermal (or steam) coal exports moving through Canada have been increasing due to a shortage of U.S. port capacity. In 2016, 6.2 million tonnes of U.S. thermal coal was exported through the Port of Vancouver. The Port forecasts this volume to steadily rise as coal demand rises in Asia and U.S. port capacity is maintained or falls due to state and regional opposition.

By eliminating thermal coal shipments from British Columbian ports, we can open up additional capacity for metallurgical coal that is used to make long-lasting steel, not burned to produce short-term electricity.

Provincial governments across our country are phasing out the use of thermal coal as a source of electricity, some at considerable expense to their ratepayer. The same is true for many U.S. western states. Oregon, Washington and California have all made significant commitments to eliminate the use of coal as source of electricity for their citizens. In fact, in August, 2016, Governor Jerry Brown of California signed Bill 1279 that banned the provision of any state transportation funding for new coal export terminals.

Banning thermal coal exports from British Columbian ports is in line with the values of Canada and the Cascadia region. And with the decision by the United States Department of Commerce to impose these unfair and unwarranted duties on Canadian softwood lumber exports, now is the time to align our shared values with our environmental policy.

I would hope that you will join me in this important initiative, but in the event that Canada does not consider this request appropriate, please be assured that British Columbia will use the tools we have at our disposal to discourage the shipping of thermal coal through British Columbia.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Christy Clark
Premier