

## **Klein, Heather**

---

**From:** Smernoff David <davids@acterra.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2016 9:36 AM  
**To:** Klein, Heather  
**Cc:** City Administrator's Office; Kalb, Dan; Office of the Mayor  
**Subject:** Oppose coal export facility

June 23, 2016

Dear Ms. Klein, Mayor Schaaf and City Council Members -

Although we are not a residents of Oakland, as residents of the SF Bay Area we appreciate the opportunity to present our views on the proposed coal export facility in Oakland.

Because the proposal is on City owned land, you have the authority and responsibility to deny this project and we strongly urge you to adopt an ordinance to block coal and petcoke exports through Oakland.

As a scientist who has studied climate change it is clear that we must end our dependance on fossil fuels. Coal is the most carbon polluting fuel. California has worked hard to be coal-free and this terminal would directly conflict with the states aggressive carbon-reduction targets. Burning coal anywhere on the planet will impact California and Oakland through sea-level rise, drought, wildfires, agriculture decline, increased disease vector issues, and more.

As a physician, I am concerned that the toxic nature of coal dust will fall disproportionately on low income communities of color, both within and outside Oakland. Coal dust is linked to decreased lung capacity, increased childhood bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia, emphysema, and heart disease. Allowing the coal to come from Utah through California to Oakland will impact poor communities, drive up health care costs and ruin lives. This will be especially true of workers at the proposed terminal.

The terminal is also a poor economic decision. An analysis of the full life cycle costs of the terminal, including public health costs, sea level rise mitigation, emergency response when the inevitable accidents occur, the inevitable clean-up costs when the coal companies go bankrupt, and other externalities, will lead to a conclusion that the net economic benefit to Oakland will be a large negative number.

All Californians, indeed all life on Earth, will benefit from your wise decision to block coal exports through Oakland.

Respectfully submitted,

David T. Smernoff, Ph.D  
Cindy L. Russell, M.D.  
112 Foxwood Road  
Portola Valley, CA 94028