



December 2, 2013

Ron Melin
Senior Environmental Planner
Cowlitz County Building and Planning Department
207 4th Avenue N.
Kelso, WA 98626

Regarding: Columbia River Carbonates Marine Terminal Project – application for Shoreline Substantial Development Permit

Dear Mr. Melin;

Columbia River Carbonates (CRC), a mining and mineral processing company based in Woodland, Washington, recently filed an application for a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit in Cowlitz County seeking to construct a marine terminal facility on the Columbia River. West Linn Paper Company fully supports this application and the marine terminal project, which for reasons set forth below, we deem to be essential for the continued economic viability of our company.

Located just outside of Portland, Oregon, West Linn Paper Company is an independent manufacturer of coated free-sheet web paper and is the oldest active paper mill and the only coated free-sheet manufacturer in the western United States. West Linn Paper Company products are sold throughout North America and are used for high-end advertising materials, direct mail, magazines, catalogs and book publishing.

CRC supplies our mill with high bright, ultra-fine calcium carbonate slurries that are a critical and significant segment of our raw material supply chain. The close proximity of their production facility and the resultant low freight costs enable West Linn Paper to remain competitive in an otherwise hostile paper market environment. Indeed, many paper mills in the Pacific Northwest have closed in recent years due to crippling competition from lower cost imports, primarily from the Far East. CRC is the only producer of ground calcium carbonate slurries suitable for paper applications that is situated west of the Rocky Mountains. Should the company be unable to produce sufficient product to supply West Linn Paper Company, our ability to remain competitive would be in jeopardy. A mill closure would not only have significant impact on the local economy, but would result in the loss of 275 family-wage jobs.

The proposed marine terminal is necessary in order to secure the long term supply of raw

material for CRC from its recently acquired Calder Quarry in Alaska via ocean-going barge. I have personally toured the company's manufacturing facility in Woodland, where it has operated successfully since 1986. CRC also provides family-wage jobs for 70 families in Cowlitz and Clark Counties, with full benefits that include a generous 401K plan and full medical coverage for employees and their dependants.

Further, CRC supplies value-added calcium carbonate products to other industrial users in Cowlitz County and the greater Portland metropolitan area. In short, the company is an integral and important part of the local economy and the industries that drive it. I am confident that CRC has and will address every potential impact from this project and that the company will honor its commitment to protect the environment and mitigate all impacts to it and the local community.

In summary, I sincerely urge Cowlitz County, upon completion of its due diligence in processing the application for the Shoreline Substantial Development Permit, to approve this vital water transportation project. West Linn Paper Company and its 275 employees depend on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Mongrain". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brad Mongrain, CFO
West Linn Paper Company