

Dear Minister Guilbeault and review panel members

I am writing to you as the Executive Director of the Rivershed Society of BC (Rivershed), a non-profit charity working to transform the Fraser to a resilient watershed with salmon, people and economies flourishing in rivershed communities.

Rivershed urges you to reject the proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has stated clearly that the terminal's impacts on marine, estuarial and delta ecosystems, along with air and water pollution and increased shipping traffic, will be "regional in extent, permanent in duration, irreversible, and continuous."

The Fraser River Estuary is important habitat for local and migrating species, many of them at risk, including Chinook salmon and southern resident killer whales. To allow this project to go forward would be contrary to your government's publicly stated biodiversity and species recovery commitments.

Recent research shows more than 100 species considered at risk of local extinction rely on habitats within and surrounding the Fraser Estuary (Kehoe et al., 2020). The reasons to reject the expansion include impacts on Fraser Chinook salmon, increased noise and ship strikes on endangered southern resident killer whales and impacts on intertidal biofilm, which has implications for migratory shorebirds such as western sandpipers.

Fourteen of 16 Fraser Chinook populations are assessed as threatened or endangered by COSEWIC, and are already under pressure from climate change, habitat destruction and overfishing. These fish are vitally important to fisheries and are the primary prey for endangered southern resident orcas.

The evidence that Roberts Bank Terminal 2 will place too many stressors on endangered species, including Fraser Chinook salmon and southern resident killer whales is overwhelming. But there's little evidence that habitat offsets would successfully mitigate adverse effects of the port expansion. Independent scientists, government experts and the review panel have all provided ample evidence that this project would have long-term, deeply damaging environmental impacts.

We urge you to listen to the science and evidence and reject the proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion.

Sincerely,



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