

How Can Scientists and Major Environmental Groups All be Wrong About Roberts Bank Terminal 2?

Delta: August 20 2024

Can hundreds of scientists, including federal government scientists, all the major environmental groups in Canada, fisheries experts, birders, wildlife experts, marine mammal researchers and watchers all be wrong? Can the major Canadian port operator be wrong?

Can all these people and groups be wrong? Can PM Trudeau's cabinet (acting as Governor In Council) be right when it approved the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) project stating it is "justified in the circumstances"?

There is still time to right this wrong. RBT2 still needs a fisheries act authorization. Write to Fisheries Minister Lebouthilier DFO.Minister-Ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca and tell her not to give RBT2 the fisheries act authorization it needs.

Science, facts and evidence demonstrate RBT2 will denigrate sensitive intertidal habitat critical for the survival of migratory and other shorebirds, with the negative effects cascading all the way up the food web impacting pacific salmon, other fishes, crabs and southern resident killer whales (SRKW). Government scientists told the federal government repeatedly RBT2's significant adverse environmental effects will be immediate, permanent, continuous, and irreversible and cannot be mitigated. Other scientists independent of government, as well as environmental groups and first nations leaders all agree.

In approving RBT2 the federal cabinet misled Canadians. At no time have they explained what is justified in the circumstances. Is the path towards extinction for SRKW, the further degradation of salmon stocks and crabs, declines in migratory bird species towards extinction, all justified in building another container terminal on the last remaining natural large intertidal bank in the Fraser Estuary?

The federal cabinet never looked at the RBT2 economics and they ignored the significant adverse environmental effects. Why? What was it that caused these cabinet ministers to go against all the environmental evidence? Why did they ignore the economics? Is there something being hidden from the public? Why has the federal cabinet never said exactly what is justified in the circumstances?

Are there entities that stand to gain influencing cabinet ministers in ridings held by cabinet ministers? Why did Ministers Wilkinson, Sajjan and Champagne all support RBT2 going against all the scientific evidence? Why did Minister Qualtrough, the MP for Delta, not oppose RBT2?

When governments make decisions based on science, facts and evidence, having respect for the environment, Canadians can expect our ecosystems and biodiversity to survive and once again thrive.

For more information visit www.againstportexpansion.org
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