

Terminal operators warn of port shutdown

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
EO Media Group



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Cargo containers are shown being loaded on ships at the Port of Portland in this file photo. Container terminal operators claim West Coast ports are on the brink of shutting down but have stopped short of threatening to lock out the longshoremen's union.

iversity of Illinois who was involved in a past dispute between ILWU and PMA.

While McKenna did not draw a line in the sand, his statements may be an indication that container terminal operators want Congress to put more pressure on ILWU or that the Obama administration should plan to intervene in a looming lockout.

"I think it's more than just posturing. I think they're inviting the government to get involved in this dispute," LeRoy said. "I prefer to call it signaling they've reached a higher level of concern and frustration."

If the PMA were to commit to unilaterally implementing a contract, that would amount to provoking the union to take action or comply with its demands, said Jim Tessier, a labor relations consultant and former PMA employee.

"That's the invitation to a strike, but you're not the one do-

ing the actual damage," he said.

Any result that would further disrupt shipping through West Coast ports is of great concern to agricultural exporters, who have contended with port congestion for months.

If a contract were implemented, the ILWU could reject it and go on strike or continue working under the imposed terms, said Henry Drummonds, a labor law professor at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Even if longshoremen didn't strike, the container terminals could still lock them out due to allegations of misconduct, he said.

In 2013, for example, two Northwest grain handlers locked out longshoremen after claiming sabotage and work slowdowns.

"There are various rationales for a lockout," said Drummonds.

Unlike the standoff between ILWU and the grain handlers, however, the container terminals

would not have the option of keeping their facilities operating in the event of a lockout, said Tessier.

Grain facilities require relatively few workers who were replaced by managers during the lockout.

West Coast container terminals employ more than 13,000 longshoremen — an impossible number of people to replace quickly, Tessier said.

"If they lock these guys out, nothing will happen," he said.

While recent port congestion has been disruptive, a shutdown would cost the U.S. economy \$700 million to \$2 billion a day, depending on its duration, according to PMA.

The association's final contract offer comes shortly after it appeared the parties were making progress in their negotiations.

A key point of contention was recently resolved between the longshoremen's union and terminal operators, which led to speculation that a new overall labor contract was imminent.

PMA said it had struck a tentative deal with ILWU over the management of truck chassis, which are wheeled platforms used to move cargo containers.

A dispute over chassis erupted when the terminals sold the equipment to other firms, which then performed maintenance and repair work traditionally done by longshoremen.

The chassis issue was a major controversy in talks over the new contract after a previous agreement expired in 2014. In recent months, terminal operators have blamed the union for slowing down shipping as a negotiating tactic.

WORLD BRIEFLY

Jordan launches new airstrikes against Islamic State militants

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Dozens of Jordanian fighter jets bombed Islamic State training centers and weapons storage sites Thursday, intensifying attacks after the militants burned to death a captured Jordanian pilot.

As part of the new campaign, Jordan is also attacking targets in Iraq, said Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh. Up to now, Jordan had struck IS targets in Syria, but not Iraq, as part of a U.S.-led military coalition.

"We said we are going to take this all the way, we are going to go after them wherever they are and we're doing that," Judeh told Fox News.

Asked if Jordan was now carrying out attacks in both countries, he said: "That's right. Today more Syria than Iraq, but like I said it's an ongoing effort."

"They're in Iraq and they are in Syria and therefore you have to target them wherever they are," he added.

French, German leaders back new peace plan for Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Carrying a peace plan that reportedly incorporates proposals from Russia, the leaders of Germany and France met Thursday with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in a hastily arranged mission to bring an end to the accelerated fighting in the east of the country.

The trip by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande, who will follow by meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday in Moscow, came as concerns rose about whether the U.S. would grant lethal aid to Ukraine and as NATO formed a quick-reaction force of 5,000 soldiers in response to Russia's increased military muscle-flexing.

The meeting with Poroshenko ended late Thursday and Hollande and Merkel left the presidential offices without comment. Details of their plan remained unclear, although Poroshenko said at the start of the meeting that it raised hopes for calling a quick cease-fire.

Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said on Twitter that the leaders discussed "steps so that the Minsk agreement can start working." That refers to a pact reached in September that called for a cease-fire, the pullback of heavy weaponry by both sides, international monitoring of the Ukraine-Russia border and a degree of autonomy for the east.

The high-level diplomacy came as resurgent fighting killed eight more people in eastern Ukraine and fueled fears the conflict is threatening Europe's overall security. More than 5,300 people have been killed since the fighting started in April.

Low-carbon fuel bill headed for state Senate vote

By HILLARY BORRUD
EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group

SALEM — A bill to make Oregon's low-carbon fuels program permanent is headed to the state Senate for a vote, after lawmakers passed it out of committee Wednesday evening.

Democrats on the committee moved the bill forward despite calls from Republicans to delay action until ethical questions surrounding first lady Cylvia Hayes' work for groups supporting the standard are investigated.

The latest version of the bill would remove one of the cost

control provisions adopted by the state's Environmental Quality Commission earlier this year, and instead direct the commission to rein costs in part by issuing credits to entities that use alternative fuels.

An amendment added by the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources would remove language from the existing low-carbon fuel standard that requires the commission to defer, amend or suspend the program if it causes a significant increase in fuel prices, said Cory-Ann Wind, an air quality manager for the Department of Environmental Quality who has

worked on the fuels standards.

The legislation would leave intact two other cost control mechanisms in the existing fuels standards, which allow the state to make adjustments if there is an anticipated or unanticipated shortage of low-carbon fuels.

The low-carbon fuel bill, SB 324, passed out of committee on a party line vote Wednesday. Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, said there are "relief valves" and exits built into the program that the state can use if it drives up fuel prices.

"At this point, based on the information I've heard and the impact over a 10-year period of

potentially a 1 to 2 cents a gallon difference, I'm ready to move forward," Prozanski said.

Sen. Chuck Thomsen, R-Hood River, called the program "social engineering." "I think we ought to let markets do this themselves," Thomsen said.

Although Republicans do not have the votes necessary to stop the low-carbon fuels bill, Democrats need a supermajority to pass a transportation finance package and Republicans hope to use that as leverage.

"If this bill passes, I see little hope of a transportation package passing later in the session," Thomsen said.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Cloudy, a little rain; breezy	Very windy; a stray shower	Cloudy and mild	Cloudy, a shower; breezy, mild	Mostly cloudy

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

57°	48°	58°	43°	57°	49°	54°	42°	49°	34°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

58°	47°	58°	44°	58°	47°	56°	44°	54°	33°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	63°	37°
Normals	44°	28°
Records	64° (1963)	-12° (1989)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.32"
Normal month to date 0.23"
Year to date 1.04"
Last year to date 0.86"
Normal year to date 1.61"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	50°	40°
Normals	45°	29°
Records	61° (1967)	-10° (1989)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. Trace
Month to date 0.32"
Normal month to date 0.17"
Year to date 0.76"
Last year to date 0.60"
Normal year to date 1.45"

SUN AND MOON

	Last	New	First	Full
Sunrise today		7:11 a.m.		
Sunset tonight		5:08 p.m.		
Moonrise today		8:14 p.m.		
Moonset today		8:11 a.m.		

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Breezy today with rain, heavy at times. Rain tonight. Rain tomorrow and Sunday.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mild today with rain at times. Spotty showers tonight; windy in the south.

Western Washington: Periods of rain today into tomorrow. Sunday and Monday; periods of rain.

Eastern Washington: Periods of rain today. A couple of showers tonight. A brief shower or two tomorrow.

Cascades: Rain today; breezy in the south. Showers tonight. Periods of rain tomorrow.

Northern California: Rain, heavy at times today; however, a shower or two in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	56	49	r	56	47	r
Baker City	50	38	r	53	32	c
Bend	50	40	r	50	36	c
Brookings	58	51	r	56	51	r
Burns	54	40	sh	53	34	c
Enterprise	49	37	r	50	33	c
Eugene	56	50	r	57	47	r
Heppner	58	42	r	57	39	c
Hermiston	58	47	r	58	44	pc
John Day	54	41	sh	55	37	c
Klamath Falls	49	41	r	51	40	r
La Grande	55	42	r	55	37	c
Meacham	53	40	r	53	36	c
Medford	52	46	r	53	41	r
Newport	57	52	r	57	49	r
North Bend	59	51	r	59	49	r
Ontario	59	47	sh	63	42	c
Pasco	58	47	r	58	44	pc
Pendleton	57	48	r	58	43	c
Portland	55	49	r	53	46	r
Redmond	56	41	r	55	36	c
Salem	56	51	r	58	47	r
Spokane	47	42	r	47	41	r
Ukiah	54	39	r	55	36	c
Vancouver	53	48	r	55	46	r
Walla Walla	55	48	r	55	46	pc
Yakima	51	40	r	52	38	sh

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	51	28	pc	38	16	pc
Hong Kong	64	57	pc	67	56	pc
Jerusalem	72	54	c	69	45	pc
London	41	33	pc	45	35	pc
Mexico City	70	38	pc	72	40	pc
Moscow	20	16	c	27	16	sn
Paris	36	27	s	41	34	s
Rome	53	38	sh	54	36	sh
Seoul	40	26	s	42	8	pc
Sydney	77	66	pc	80	67	s
Tokyo	49	36	s	47	39	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	S 8-16	SW 20-30
Pendleton	SSE 10-20	WSW 20-30

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 1 1 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: Snow will begin over the Upper Midwest and reach into upstate New York today. Rain will drench areas from northern California to western Montana. Much of the balance of the nation will be dry.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 84° in Riverside, Calif. Low -26° in Tower, Minn.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	65	36	s	65	38	s
Atlanta	53	33	s	60	42	s
Atlanta City	33	27	pc	49	36	pc
Baltimore	37	23	s	48	33	pc
Billings	61	46	pc	60	42	sh
Birmingham	55	31	s	63	44	s
Boise	59	47	c	60	43	c
Boston	19	15	pc	30	22	sn
Charleston, SC	50	30	s	61	41	s
Charleston, WV	39	27	pc	56	39	pc
Chicago	30	22	c	37	34	c
Cleveland	28	23	pc	41	33	c
Dallas	61	42	s	72	52	s
Denver	70	44	pc	72	39	pc
Detroit	27	24	c	36	31	c
El Paso	72	40	s	75	42	s
Fairbanks	-24	-41	s	-17	-32	s
Fargo	28	18	sn	33	23	i
Honolulu	79	66	sh	79	66	s
Houston	61	44	pc	71	54	pc
Indianapolis	37	29	pc	50	39	c
Jacksonville	56	33	s	66	40	s
Kansas City	55	33	s	66	43	s
Las Vegas	75	52	pc	74	53	c
Little Rock	56	39	s	70	50	pc
Los Angeles	75	56	pc	69	57	sh
Louisville	46	34	s	60	45	pc
Memphis	52	39	s	66	53	pc
Miami	74	61	pc	73	62	s
Millwaukee	29	23	i	35	29	i
Minneapolis	30	19	i	36	33	c
Nashville	52	33	s	65	49	pc
New Orleans	58	41	s	68		