

KATE BROWN
GOVERNOR



RECEIVED JUL 06 2015
KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
TO: _____
DUE DATE: _____
AUTHOR: _____
SUBJECT: _____
ACTION

RESPONSE FOR EXEC. SIG.

RESPOND FOR EXECUTIVE
REVIEWED BY _____

F.Y.I.

June 30, 2015

Dear Dow,

Thank you for contacting me about the safe transport of crude oil shipped by trains.

More crude oil is being transported by rail along major rail lines in Oregon than ever before. In 2014, the Governor's Office called for a statewide review of rail safety practices to evaluate existing resources and policies, in order to ensure that Oregon is doing everything possible to prevent accidents, increase emergency response supplies, and properly train first responders.

This review resulted in several increased safety measures. It directed the Oregon Department of Transportation's Rail Division to hire more inspectors, called for additional funding for first responder training, and outlined steps to improve reporting and transparency on crude oil emergency response resources. The review also called for additional action from the federal government to require railroads to provide notification to emergency responders for all crude oil transported by rail, not just Bakken crude.

The Governor's Office has been in contact with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation (USDOT) Anthony Foxx and Oregon's congressional delegation to advocate for safer tank cars, tougher safety standards, slower train speeds, and more federal assistance with first responder training. At this time, Oregon is waiting on the issuance of a federal rail safety rule by the USDOT that would apply to updated standards for replacement tankers, train speeds, and train braking, among other issues. A rule that greatly strengthens these standards is an important step to improving the safe transport of hazardous materials.

I will continue working with our federal and state policymakers to push for policies that enhance rail safety and ensure communities have what they need to respond to a rail accident.

Sincerely,

Kate Brown
Governor

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