

Safe Energy Leadership Alliance

July 7, 2015

The Honorable C.L. “Butch” Otter
Governor of Idaho
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

We are members of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance (SELA), a coalition of 160 local, state, and tribal leaders from across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, California, and British Columbia, seeking a full assessment, disclosure, and accountability for the economic, cultural, environmental, health, and safety risks posed by increasing coal and oil transport by rail.

We are writing today to ask you to strengthen state requirements for disclosure, reporting, and emergency planning for transport of crude oil by rail to the maximum extent possible under state and federal law.

While we come from communities large and small, urban and rural, across a vast geographic area, we share a common mandate to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of our residents. Oil train derailments, spills, and fires have already resulted in evacuations, devastating pollution, and loss of life across the United States and Canada. We are deeply concerned about the growing traffic of oil trains through the heart of our communities and the immediate risks of derailment, explosion, and fire. To date, 24 local governments in the Pacific Northwest have passed resolutions expressing grave concerns about the growing threat of oil transport and, in some cases, opposing expansion or development of new oil terminals.

Idaho and the Pacific Northwest have seen a stunning increase in the amount of crude oil transport, with an estimated 9.2 million gallons now crossing our region every day. Because of historic development patterns, rail lines carrying these flammable products pass through densely populated areas, commercial and industrial districts, and hug the shores of Idaho Rivers and lakes, such as the Kootenai and Pend Oreille Rivers and Lake Pend Oreille. A derailment, explosion, or spill would be devastating to our communities and environment. Dedication of limited rail capacity to oil trains already delays passengers and shipment of locally manufactured goods, all while threatening our residents. Freight mobility and safety issues will only become more acute if proposed oil and coal terminals are built along the Pacific Coast.

It is imperative that we get ahead of the surge in oil transport by rail and barge. We urge you to join SELA in advocating for immediate federal action to require safer tank cars and slower speeds and to support strong state legislation that reflects the risks to our communities and our hopes for future economic development.

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter

July 7, 2015

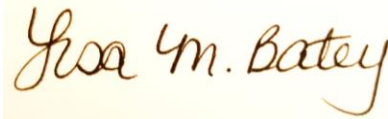
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Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you and working together on this issue.

Sincerely,



Sally Bagshaw
Council Member, City of Seattle, WA



Lisa Batey
Council President, City of Milwaukee, OR



Jack Burkman
Council Member, City of Vancouver, WA



Arlene Burns
Mayor, City of Mosier, OR



Joan Cathey
Council Member, City of Tumwater, WA



Bob Champion
Council Member, City of Mukilteo, WA



Dow Constantine
King County Executive (WA)
Chair of SELA



Christine Cook
Council Member, City of Mukilteo, WA



Peter Cornelison
Council Member, City of Hood River, OR



Mark Gamba
Councilor, City of Milwaukie, OR



Jean Godden
Council Member, City of Seattle, WA



Jennifer Gregerson
Mayor, City of Mukilteo, WA



Bart Hansen
Council Member, City of Vancouver, WA



Dennis Higgins
Council Member, City of Kent, WA



Michael Lilliquist
Council Member, City of Bellingham, WA



Joyce Lindsay
Council Member, City of Washougal, WA



Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Washington State Senator (36th District)



Carrie Logan
Mayor, City of Sandpoint, ID



Liz Lovelett
Council Member, City of Anacortes, WA



Kate McBride
Council President, City of Hood River, OR



Mike O'Brien
Council Member, City of Seattle, WA



Larry Phillips
Council Chair, King County (WA)



Chuck Puchmayr
Councillor, City of New Westminster, BC



Chris Roberts
Council Member, City of Shoreline, WA



Wayne Roth
Council Member, City of Bainbridge Island, WA



Kshama Sawant
Council Member, City of Seattle, WA

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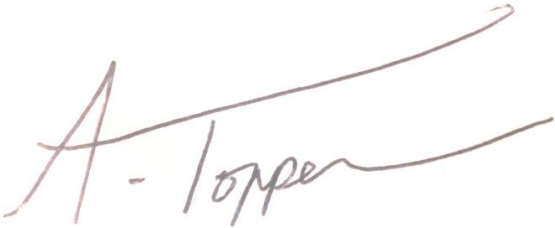
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A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long, sweeping horizontal line with a small upward flick at the end.

Jon Snyder
Council Member, City of Spokane, WA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Stuckart" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Ben Stuckart
Council President, City of Spokane, WA

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Alishia Topper" in a cursive script.

Alishia Topper
Council Member, City of Vancouver, WA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon J. Williamson" in a cursive script.

Shannon Williamson
Council Member, City of Sandpoint, ID

cc: The Honorable Mike Crapo, United States Senate
 The Honorable Jim Risch, United States Senate
 The Honorable Raul Labrador, U.S. House of Representatives
 The Honorable Shawn Keough, Idaho State Senate
 The Honorable Sage Dixon, Idaho State House of Representatives
 The Honorable Heather Scott, Idaho State House of Representatives
 Jess Byrne, Interim Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Brigadier General William B. "Brad" Richy, Director, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security
 Tom Schultz, Director, Idaho Department of Lands
 Stephen Goodson, Governor's Special Assistant for Natural Resources
