

# Safe Energy Leadership Alliance

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June 25, 2015

The Honorable Kate Brown  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol Building  
900 Court St. NE, #160  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown:

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 and barge.

We are writing today to ask you to strengthen state requirements for disclosure, reporting, and emergency planning for transport of crude oil by rail and barge 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 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.

Oregon and the Pacific Northwest have seen a stunning increase in the amount of crude oil transported, 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 neighborhoods, commercial areas, and industrial districts, and hug the shores of Oregon Rivers, such as the Columbia and the Deschutes. A derailment, explosion, or spill would be devastating to our communities and the environment. Dedication of limited rail capacity to oil trains already delays passengers and shipments of locally manufactured goods, 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.

Representative Barbara Smith Warner – who is also a member of SELA – has proposed legislation that directs the Oregon State Fire Marshal to coordinate oil spill emergency response planning for Oregon's regional hazmat response teams. We strongly support HB 3225 and ask

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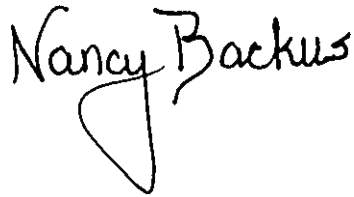
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for your support of this bill, so that our communities are not left to assume the risks of crude-by-rail while the trillion-dollar oil industry receives all the profits. Strong provisions for crude-by-rail safety, disclosure, and emergency preparedness were proposed by Washington Governor Inslee and passed by the Washington Legislature earlier this week.

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 train speeds, and to support strong state legislation that addresses the risks to our communities and our hopes for future economic development.

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

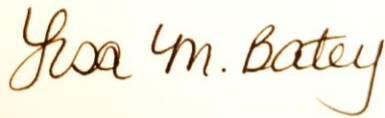
Sincerely,



Nancy Backus  
Mayor, City of Auburn, WA



Sally Bagshaw  
Council Member, City of Seattle, WA



Lisa Batey  
Council President, City of Milwaukie, OR



Paul Blackburn  
Mayor, City of Hood River, OR



George Brown  
Councilor, City of Eugene, OR

Arlene Burns  
Mayor, City of Mosier, OR



Stephen Buxbaum  
Mayor, City of Olympia, WA



Joan Cathey  
Council Member, City of Tumwater, WA

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Dow Constantine  
King County Executive (WA)  
Chair of SELA



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



Stacia Jenkins  
Council Member, City of Normandy Park, WA



Nathaniel Jones  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Olympia, WA



Michael Lilliquist  
Council Member, City of Bellingham, WA



Carrie Logan  
Mayor, City of Sandpoint, ID



Liz Lovelett  
Council Member, City of Anacortes, WA

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Handwritten signatures of Kate McBride and Candace Mumm.

Kate McBride  
Council President, City of Hood River, OR

Candace Mumm  
Council Member, City of Spokane, WA

Handwritten signature of Mike O'Brien.

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

Laurent Picard  
Council Member, City of Hood River, OR

Handwritten signature of Karin Power.

Karin Power  
Councilor, City of Milwaukie, OR

Handwritten signature of Chuck Puchmayr.

Chuck Puchmayr  
Councillor, City of New Westminster, BC

Handwritten signature of Chris Roberts.

Chris Roberts  
Council Member, City of Shoreline, WA

Handwritten signature of Wayne Roth.

Wayne Roth  
Council Member, City of Bainbridge Island, WA

Handwritten signature of Jesse Salomon.

Jesse Salomon  
Council Member, City of Shoreline, WA

Handwritten signature of Kshama Sawant.

Kshama Sawant  
Council Member, City of Seattle, WA

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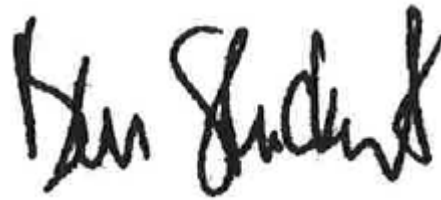
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Barbara Smith Warner  
Oregon State Representative (45<sup>th</sup> District)



Ben Stuckart  
Council President, City of Spokane, WA



Robert Thoms  
Council Member, City of Tacoma, WA



Alishia Topper  
Council Member, City of Vancouver, WA

Amy Weissfeld  
Council Member, City of Stevenson, WA

cc: Dick Pedersen, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Andrew Phelps, Interim Director, Oregon Office of Emergency Management  
Mary Abrams, Director, Oregon Department of State Lands  
Richard Whitman, Natural Resources Advisor, Office of the Governor

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