



King County

Dave Upthegrove

Councilmember, District 5

Metropolitan King County Council

June 7, 2016

RE: Oil Train Moratorium in Washington State

Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation --

I am deeply concerned about the safety of the communities along oil train routes in Washington State. Last Friday the Pacific Northwest witnessed the region's first oil train wreck since a production boom in Bakken oil fields increased oil traffic in the Columbia River Gorge from zero to 60 million gallons per week. Sadly, Mosier had to bear the burden of being the first community in our region to be impacted by an oil train derailment.

The oil industry has demonstrated challenges in their ability to handle their product safely. The derailment in Mosier is just one example of the many that have occurred in North America since 2013. Since the uptick in oil transport, the trains are increasing in size and towing more tanker cars through the main streets of our communities. As a result, across North America, 47 people have lost their lives and millions of gallons of oil have spilled into our waterways. We cannot continue to risk loss of life or sizable environmental degradation in our communities from an oil train derailment. It is in light of recent events that I respectfully request that you suspend all oil train traffic in Washington.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dave Upthegrove
King County Councilmember
District 5