

Pass the Oil Transportation Safety Now Bill

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3 **WHEREAS** rapid and dramatic changes to oil transportation are creating serious
4 threats to Washington State communities and waterways;

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6 **WHEREAS** in 2014, approximately 2.6 loaded, mile-long trains carrying a total of 7.8
7 million gallons of crude oil travel through our state each day;

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9 **WHEREAS** dangerous types of oil – volatile Bakken oil from the Midwest and toxic and
10 heavy tar sands from Canada – pose unique dangers to public health and the
11 environment;

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13 **WHEREAS** more oil spilled from trains into rivers, lakes, and marine waters in 2013
14 than in the previous forty years combined;

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16 **WHEREAS** since 2013 there have been nine significant oil train derailments, including
17 the July 2013 tragedy in Lac Mégantic, Quebec, where 47 people died in an oil train
18 explosion;

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20 **WHEREAS** oil spills take years to clean up and the affected area never fully recovers as
21 remnants of the spilled fuels remain in the ecosystem;

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23 **WHEREAS** our state laws are outdated and must be modernized to protect
24 communities from today's threats and potential changes in the future;

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26 **WHEREAS** more than 25 Washington cities, counties and other jurisdictions have
27 adopted resolutions calling on the WA State Legislature to pass legislation to improve
28 oil transportation safety;

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30 **WHEREAS** at the request of Governor Jay Inslee SB 5087 and HB 1449 have been
31 introduced in the State Legislature and would:

- 32 • Give the public information on how and what kind of oil is moving through WA
- 33 • Authorize oil spill prevention measures and increase the scope of hazardous
- 34 materials inspections
- 35 • Ensure companies carrying oil, not WA taxpayers, pay for cleaning up all oil
- 36 spills
- 37 • Provide funding to modernize our system to safeguard communities and
- 38 waterways; and

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40 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Attorney General has reviewed said legislation and
41 found it to be enforceable in accordance with existing Federal regulations governing the
42 transportation of goods across state lines;

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44 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
45 Committee, urge our representatives and senators in the Washington State Legislature
46 to pass SB 5087 and HB 1449, Concerning Oil Transportation Safety, during the 2015
47 legislative session; and

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49 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we send copies of this resolution to
50 all county and legislative district Democratic Party organizations requesting that their
51 members write or call their state legislators urging passage of SB 5087 and HB 1449.

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54 Submitted to the WSDCC with the signatures of 50 committee members. (Date
55 Submitted 1/24/2015)

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57 Recommended Pass by the Resolutions Committee at their January 24, 2015 Meeting in
58 Olympia.

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60 Passed by the WSDCC at their January 24, 2015 Meeting in Olympia.