

SJM 8015 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Environment

1 Beginning on page 1, line 4, after "ASSEMBLED," strike all material
2 through "Transportation." on page 2, line 15 and insert "THE SECRETARY
3 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL
4 RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION, AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PIPELINE AND
5 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The number of freight trains carrying crude oil and other
10 potentially hazardous liquids and gases through Washington has
11 increased and will continue to increase; and

12 WHEREAS, The type of crude oil being transported through Washington
13 by rail tank freight trains may be particularly flammable and dangerous
14 as compared to other types of crude oil; and

15 WHEREAS, Accidents involving rail tanks carrying crude oil and
16 other potentially hazardous liquids and gases pose significant risks to
17 communities, families, and businesses located near rail lines, as well
18 as overall public health; and

19 WHEREAS, The safety and preservation of Washington communities and
20 natural areas is crucial to the economic stability and health of the
21 State of Washington; and

22 WHEREAS, Tanks carrying crude oil and other potentially hazardous
23 liquids and gases by rail should meet the highest safety standards and
24 utilize the best technology to minimize the impact of accidents; and

25 WHEREAS, The routing of tank car trains carrying crude oil and
26 other potentially hazardous liquids and gases should minimize the
27 potential risks of an accident in a populated or sensitive area, and
28 response planning by rail carriers should be sufficient to
29 comprehensively address worst-case accident scenarios;

30 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
31 Congress of the United States of America or the United States

1 Department of Transportation toughen existing standards for new tank
2 rail cars and require that the approximately ninety-two thousand
3 existing tank rail cars used to transport crude oil and other flammable
4 liquids, including potentially hazardous liquids and gases, be
5 retrofitted with advanced safety enhancing technologies or, if not
6 upgraded, phased out of service, and that the United States Department
7 of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
8 Administration and Federal Railroad Administration act on the
9 recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board to update
10 their regulations to improve hazardous material route planning and
11 require rerouting to avoid transporting hazardous materials through
12 populated and sensitive areas, to ensure rail carriers have
13 comprehensive response plans for worst-case oil spill accidents, to
14 develop an audit program for rail carriers of oil to ensure adequate
15 oil spill response, removal, and mitigation provisions are in place, to
16 require better testing of the characteristics of hazardous material to
17 ensure appropriate classification, and to audit crude oil shippers to
18 ensure that appropriate hazardous material classifications are used.

19 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
20 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
21 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of
22 Transportation, the Administrator of the Federal Railroad
23 Administration, the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous
24 Materials Safety Administration, the President of the United States
25 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of
26 Congress from the State of Washington."

EFFECT: Adds references to crude oil in addition to other
potentially hazardous liquids and gases being transported by rail tank
cars. Addresses the memorial to two agencies within the U.S.
Department of Transportation in addition to Congress, and requests that
the agencies act upon recommendations by the National Transportation
Safety Board to adopt rules to improve the response preparedness,
planning, and safety of hazardous material rail transportation.

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