

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31504

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3 A RESOLUTION related to petroleum transport by rail through Seattle and the State of
4 Washington; urging adoption of state legislation and federal regulations; state assessment
5 of risks; railroad company restriction of petroleum transport through Seattle; and update
6 of City incident response plans to address the potential safety, environmental, and
7 economic impacts of petroleum transport by rail.

8 WHEREAS, new technologies have resulted in the development of unprecedented amounts of
9 both domestic and foreign oil, natural gas, tar sands, bitumen, and other petroleum
10 products and derivatives, which will significantly increase the volume of petroleum and
11 petroleum products moving by rail through Oregon and Washington from the first
12 dedicated train in 2012 to a possible volume of nearly 800,000 barrels per day, if all
13 proposed projects are built; and

14 WHEREAS, the volume of petroleum-by-rail moving through Seattle is expected to triple to over
15 one million barrels per week; and

16 WHEREAS, the primary source of the petroleum anticipated to be transported by rail through
17 Seattle is from the Bakken formation, which the U.S. Department of Transportation
18 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has determined may be more
19 flammable than traditional heavy crude oil; and

20 WHEREAS, the rail lines that will carry this petroleum run through Seattle's neighborhoods,
21 parks, business and industrial areas, sporting arenas and stadiums, and along our
22 waterfront, creeks, and other natural areas; and

23 WHEREAS, rail traffic also moves beneath downtown Seattle in an underground tunnel with no
24 fire protection systems and limited emergency egress or ventilation; and

25 WHEREAS, recent derailments, spills, and fires, such as the recent derailment and explosion in
26 Casselton, North Dakota, illustrate the potential catastrophic impacts which could occur
27 to our community and environment from the transport of petroleum by rail; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is deeply concerned about the threat to life, safety and the
environment of potential spills and fires from the transport of petroleum by rail; NOW
THEREFORE,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR
2 CONCURRING, THAT:

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4 **Section 1.** The City of Seattle strongly urges Washington State to adopt legislation
5 requiring disclosure of the volumes, types of petroleum, petroleum products, and petroleum
6 derivatives; transportation routes; and the frequency and duration of transfers of petroleum, so
7 that the state and local communities can be fully informed of and plan for the risks posed by the
8 transport of petroleum by rail.

9
10 **Section 2.** The City of Seattle strongly urges the U.S. Department of Transportation
11 (DOT) to increase federal tank car design and operation regulations for petroleum product
12 shipments and aggressively phase out older-model tank cars used to move flammable liquids that
13 are not retrofitted to meet new federal requirements.

14
15 **Section 3.** The City of Seattle strongly urges the Washington Department of Ecology and
16 the Military Department Emergency Management Division, in collaboration with the
17 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Coast Guard and local government emergency
18 response entities, to assess the impact to public safety, the environment, the economy, and traffic
19 of petroleum transport by rail through Seattle and the State of Washington.

20
21 **Section 4.** The City of Seattle requests that any railroad company that operates rail lines
22 adjacent to Seattle's sporting arenas, stadiums, and beneath the City in underground tunnels
23 consider restrictions on the shipment of petroleum products along those routes until adequate
24 study by relevant state, local, and federal government agencies have determined that the

1 transport of petroleum by rail meets established public safety and environmental protection
2 standards.

3
4 **Section 5.** The City Council requests that the Seattle Fire Department and Seattle Office
5 of Emergency Management to review and, if needed, update the City's incident response plans
6 for the increasing risk imposed by the transport of petroleum by rail with a report back to the
7 relevant committees of the City Council by June 20, 2014.

8
9 Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2014, and
10 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day
11 of _____, 2014.

12 _____
13 President _____ of the City Council

14
15 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

16
17 _____
18 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

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20 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2014.

21
22 _____
23 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

24 (Seal)

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Meg Moorehead 684-8929	

Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION related to petroleum transport by rail through Seattle and the State of Washington; urging adoption of state legislation and federal regulations; state assessment of risks; railroad company restriction of petroleum transport through Seattle; and update of City incident response plans to address the potential safety, environmental, and economic impacts of petroleum transport by rail.

Summary of the Legislation:

This legislation urges Washington State to require information about petroleum products transported by rail be disclosed to the public. It urges improvement of federal regulations regarding tank car design and operations. It also asks state agencies, the Coast Guard, and local emergency response entities to assess the impacts and risks associated with transport of petroleum products by rail. It also requests that railroad companies restrict petroleum transport through Seattle pending further study of public safety and environmental impacts. And, it requests that the Seattle Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management to review and update City incident response plans to address risks from petroleum transport by rail.

Background:

Increased production of petroleum is expected to significantly increase the amount of petroleum and petroleum products transported by rail through the City of Seattle and State of Washington. Given the proximity of rail lines to Seattle residents, businesses and natural areas, there is concern that rail transport of petroleum will pose risks to public safety, the local economy and the environment. This legislation urges Washington State to require information about petroleum products transported by rail be disclosed to the public. It urges improvement of federal regulations regarding tank car design and operations. It also asks state agencies, the Coast Guard, and local emergency response entities to assess the impacts and risks associated with transport of petroleum products by rail. It also requests that railroad companies restrict petroleum transport through Seattle pending further study of public safety and environmental impacts. And, it requests that the Seattle Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management to review and update City incident response plans to address risks from petroleum transport by rail.

Please check one of the following:

 X **This legislation does not have any financial implications.**

No additional City government appropriations or revenues are anticipated from this resolution at this time.