

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
121 SW Salmon Street #1400
Portland, Oregon 97204

King Neighborhood Association
4815 NE 7th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97211

July 20, 2014

Dear Senator Merkley,

We are expressing the deep concern of King Neighborhood Association about the threat to life, safety and the environment due to accidents, potential spills and explosions posed by oil trains. We have urged the Oregon Governor to recommend against the siting of oil terminals in our state; and urged Congress, the State Legislature, and regulators to adopt laws and regulations to increase the safety of the transportation of crude oil.

Shipments of oil and coal, carried by rail, already pass through North and Northeast Portland, with little notification to residents as to their arrival. This proximity to our area creates a potential threat to the safety and health of our residents, so much so that we have encouraged our leaders to intervene, and to stop any increases in oil trains. As residents and neighbors, we want to protect our community from the danger oil trains pose to our city. Please do what you can Senator Merkley to stop the oil trains and support our Northwest leaders in their efforts.

With that in mind, King Neighborhood Association calls on municipalities, agencies and officials to deny all permits for new/expanded facilities that will result in an increase in the transportation of crude oil through Portland. King Neighborhood Association also calls for a statewide moratorium on oil train transport, to be issued until such time as there is a consensus among the industry and regulators as to the safest method of safely transporting Bakken crude oil and a proven track record that demonstrates the safety of the methodology.

Sincerely,

Margo Dobbertin
Chair, King Neighborhood Association