

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**RESOLUTION 31504**

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2  
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 and by Seattle's  
21 neighborhoods, parks, business and industrial areas, sporting arenas and stadiums, and  
22 along our 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 transport of large volumes of fossil fuels such as petroleum is not compatible  
with the City of Seattle's role as a regional and national leader in addressing climate  
change or with the City's established goal of being carbon neutral by 2050; and

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

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR  
4 CONCURRING, THAT:

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

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

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

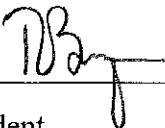
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23 **Section 4.** The City of Seattle requests that the Governor of Washington, the Washington  
24 Department of Ecology, the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, and any  
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1 other relevant state agencies refrain from permitting projects that would expand the capacity for  
2 petroleum export out of the state or otherwise increase the number of trains carrying petroleum  
3 through Seattle and other Washington communities until the cumulative environmental and  
4 safety impacts of these projects are studied and addressed.

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6 **Section 5.** The City of Seattle requests that any railroad company that operates rail lines  
7 adjacent to Seattle's sporting arenas, stadiums, and beneath the City in underground tunnels  
8 consider restrictions on the shipment of petroleum products along those routes until adequate  
9 study by relevant state, local, and federal government agencies have determined that the  
10 transport of petroleum by rail meets established public safety and environmental protection  
11 standards.

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

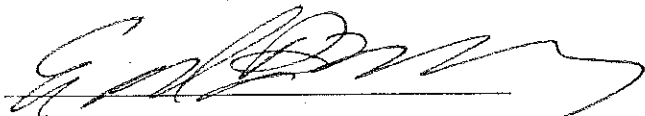
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18 Adopted by the City Council the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014, and  
19 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 10<sup>th</sup> day  
20 of March, 2014.

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22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

24 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:  
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Meg Moorehead  
LEG oil train RES  
March 4, 2014  
Version 2

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Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.



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Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)