In the early 2000’s, advances in hydraulic fracturing (fracking) allowed fossil fuel companies to access the crude trapped in the Bakken oil fields. Around the year 2009, more of this shale oil was being extracted from the Bakken oil fields than could be shipped by existing pipelines. The industry began using railroads for what is now called “crude by rail”. This went largely unnoticed until 2013 when 47 people died in the Lac Megantic oil train explosion.

On June 3rd in Mosier, Oregon, an oil train derailed spilling 32,000 gallons of oil into the Columbia River. On September 25th, 13 cars derailed in Eugene. Luckily, only one car was carrying hazardous materials. It didn’t explode.

Local emergency response teams are not equipped to handle a major oil train explosion in the valley.

The bottom line is that the fossil fuel industry is knowingly shipping an explosive substance in unsafe rail cars endangering the lives of anyone who lives in the blast zone, including many people in Eugene and Springfield.

To find out if you live in a blast zone, input your address at this website:
http://explosive-crude-by-rail.org/