

Summary of City of Eugene Resolution

No Crude Oil by Rail Resolution

Resolution opposing transport by rail of hazardous fossil fuel materials including crude oil, specifically through Eugene Oregon

Whereas, The people of the City of Eugene realize that the continued burning of fossil fuels is causing planetary warming and that such climate change is a threat to all life on this planet; and

Whereas, The people of the City of Eugene have the right to public safety, health, and welfare, which includes the right to be free from the danger of explosion or fire from railway cars carrying crude oil; and

Whereas, The enormous increase in transport of crude oil by rail has been accompanied by a similar frequency of spills and accidents, reaching a high of 141 accidents in 2014; more crude oil was spilled in US rail accidents in 2013 than in the preceding four decades; and

Whereas, Hauling crude oil into Oregon involves traversing challenging mountain passes, areas laced with earthquake faults, and numerous unsafe old steel and timber bridges over main waterways that supply drinking water to communities, greatly increasing the probability of serious accidents with grave consequences to Oregonians; and

Whereas, Federal regulations for shipping companies meant to improve rail safety for crude oil transport and to provide worse-case scenario emergency response plans will not be in place until 2018 or later; and

Whereas, Opposing crude by rail through the Eugene community would align with Eugene's Climate Recovery Ordinance;

Now Therefore, Be it resolved that the City of Eugene City Council opposes using Union Pacific (UP) rail lines to transport hazardous crude oil through Eugene, and resolve to:

1. File comments opposing any Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) documents and/or permit applications relating to the transport of crude oil by rail; and
2. Submit a copy of this resolution to Governor Brown, whereby the City of Eugene requests she:

- a. Take executive action directing state agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of safety procedures and emergency response preparedness related to shipments of crude oil; and
 - b. Order a cumulative impact analysis of the health and safety hazards posed by the transport of crude oil; and
3. Address impacts to public health, public safety, property, air quality, and surface and groundwater caused by crude oil through Eugene; and
4. Submit a letter to rail carriers involved in the transport of crude oil through Eugene and the Willamette Valley requesting that these rail carriers:
 - a. make public any plans for new or expanded rail facilities or significant rail traffic volume increases;
 - b. provide representatives to meet periodically with local citizen groups and local government officials
 - c. update UP's emergency response plan with the City of Eugene to account for the transport of crude oil and the potential emergencies that could occur with accidents involving these hazardous materials;
 - d. conduct environmental monitoring in Eugene including but not limited to groundwater and air monitoring, and submit environmental monitoring or testing information to local government entities on a monthly basis for 10 years; and
5. Work through the Oregon League of Cities, Oregon Association of Counties, and related avenues to share this Resolution with other cities along the transportation route and support their efforts to take similar action.

Find the full Resolution, supportive reference materials and how to get involved information on this website: world.350.org/Eugene/