

Vote Yes on HB 2209-A

Our organizations, representing tens of thousands of Oregonians, urge you to vote yes on HB 2209-A. HB 2209-A is a good start toward preparing Oregon to respond to oil spills resulting from the derailment of trains carrying crude oil through the Columbia River Gorge and communities throughout Oregon. The bill is a product of a bipartisan workgroup and passed unanimously out of the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee with a do-pass recommendation.

HB 2209-A would require railroads hauling large shipments of crude oil through Oregon to:

- Submit oil spill cleanup plans to the DEQ for approval
- Pay fees to cover spill response planning and training
- Carry enough insurance to cover average-sized oil spills of up to 15% of the oil train capacity, or about 450,000 gallons

In addition, HB 2209-A establishes a High Hazard Train Route Oil Spill Preparedness Fund and a triennial schedule for trainings to respond to high hazard oil train spills.

Currently, shipments of highly volatile crude oil from the Bakken region in North Dakota and tar sands region from Alberta, Canada are transported through Oregon in "unit" trains each carrying 3 million gallons of oil. Unlike our neighboring states of Washington and California, Oregon does not currently require oil spill contingency plans to be developed and approved by the state. HB 2209-A is a big step toward establishing interstate consistency between Oregon, Washington and California regarding oil train spill response.

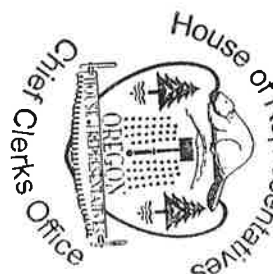
In the past six years oil train derailments, explosions and spills have resulted in the loss of 47 lives, the evacuations of thousands of people, millions of gallons of oil spilled into the environment and billions of dollars in cleanup costs. In 2016, an oil train derailed in Mosier, Oregon spilling 46,000 gallons of crude oil and burning for 14 hours. A rare windless day in the Columbia Gorge stopped the fire from spreading into the town of Mosier and a nearby elementary school. HB 2209-A will help Oregon to be better prepared for the next derailment and spill without having to rely on the luck of the wind.

Please vote "yes" on HB 2209-A

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From the Desk of Representative Mark Meek