



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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Chair Tran
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Members of the Committee

Good afternoon. My name is Mariah Rawlins and I serve as the Assistant Chief Deputy of the Emergency Response Division at the Oregon Department of State Fire Marshal. I am here today to testify in support of the -1 amendment to HB2384.

The Loaded Tank Railroad Car Fee is \$19 per car paid by the shippers of crude oil into the state of Oregon. This fee funds OSFM's HazMat Rail Training Specialist position, which is dedicated to ensuring first responders and others in the response community are adequately trained and prepared for a potential derailment or other emergency release related to the transportation of crude oil by rail. HB2209 in 2019 established a triennial training and exercise cycle, beginning with a tabletop and ending with a full-scale exercise. The tabletop is scheduled for April 2 in Klamath Falls, and our training specialist has been working closely with partners to ensure this event will meet their objectives. The local fire department, OSFM's Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team, local and county emergency managers, the Department of Environmental Quality, and both Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroads have been engaged in planning efforts, to name a small sample of partners engaged.

Our training specialist has already been doing great work to improve safety for all Oregonians, particularly those in rural communities. He's instructed HazMat Incident Commander and other rail response courses for fire agencies with Class I rail in their communities, assisted with local drills and exercises, ensured new HazMat Technicians in the state have a strong understanding of rail response during their initial training, recorded training videos so volunteer fire personnel can learn at their own pace, and participated in response planning and training with local, state, and federal partners.

The current sunset date of January 2, 2027, will pose a challenge for OSFM to ensure the prescribed exercise cycle has been completed and is poised to continue into the future. Allowing the fee to continue until mid-2029 will ensure we are not rushed in our efforts and have time to thoughtfully work through how we best continue to deliver these critical training opportunities and build strong working relationships and mutual understanding prior to an emergency. As you likely know, training is continuous in the response industry and this bill would allow us to continue our efforts to keep Oregonians safe from hazardous materials.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the -1 amendment.

Mariah Rawlins
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