



March 4, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Re: HB 2384 – SUPPORT

Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and Committee Members:

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a non-profit organization with approximately 5,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreation, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Please support HB 2384.

Friends was instrumental in passing HB 2209 (2019) that ensured that the railroads covered their own costs to the state to produce and execute contingency plans and training for oil train-related spills; to ensure that there is adequate insurance for railroads to cover true worst-case oil train derailments and oil spills; and to provide 24-hour notice to first responders from facilities that will receive oil trains. **HB 2209 (2019) ensured that there were stable and adequate fees on railroads to improve oil spill response and to provide funding for emergency preparedness. HB 2394 simply ensures, especially given the uncertain fiscal future of state funding, that the railroads continue to make the state whole for state agency activities around preventing, preparing for, and responding to oil train-related spills.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Renee M. Tkach
Conservation Director