

## 2014 WSCFF Convention Resolution

1 SUBJECT: Crude by Rail  
2 RESOLUTION #: 14-33  
3

---

4  
5 WHEREAS: New technologies and the current higher price of oil/barrel have resulted in the  
6 extraction of unprecedented amounts of crude oil from the Bakken shale formation  
7 in North Dakota, now estimated to extract one million barrels/day; and  
8

9 WHEREAS: Oil company plans to expand the rail capacity in the state of Washington to receive  
10 this crude oil at four refineries and at newly proposed marine transfer stations at the  
11 Ports of Vancouver and Grays Harbor will greatly increase the number of oil trains  
12 traveling through our state; and  
13

14 WHEREAS: These unit oil trains composed of 100 to 150 tankers filled with Bakken crude oil  
15 now travel through our state from Spokane, down the Columbia River and up the  
16 I-5 corridor north to refineries and possibly through Rochester along the Chehalis  
17 River west on Genesee & Wyoming lines to three proposed marine transfer  
18 terminals at the Port of Grays Harbor; and  
19

20 WHEREAS: Catastrophic explosions, spills and death due to derailments of tankers carrying  
21 Bakken crude oil have occurred in Lac Megantic, Quebec; Casselton, North  
22 Dakota; New Brunswick, Canada; Aliceville, Alabama; and Lynchburg, Virginia  
23 within the last year and could occur in our urban and rural areas; and  
24

25 WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
26 Safety Administration (PMSHA) has determined this Bakken crude oil may be  
27 more flammable than traditional crude oil; and  
28

29 WHEREAS: The vast majority (78,000 out of 92,000) of the tank cars used in the transport of  
30 this explosive Bakken crude oil through our state are DOT-111s, which have been  
31 known to puncture upon impact since 1991; and  
32

33 WHEREAS: In January 2014, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) stated,  
34 “Because there is no mandate for railroads to develop comprehensive plans or  
35 ensure the availability of necessary response resources, carriers have effectively  
36 placed the burden of remediating the environmental consequences of an accident on  
37 local communities along the route”; and  
38

39 WHEREAS: At the same time this burden to protect is being placed on local jurisdictions--  
40 many who are struggling to maintain their fire fighters and first responders, let  
41 alone provide them with adequate resources to respond to oil fires, explosions and  
42 derailments; and  
43

44 WHEREAS: On June 2, 2014, the City Council of the city of Vancouver passed a resolution  
45 opposing the proposed oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver and opposing the  
46 movement of these Bakken crude oil tanker trains through their city; and  
47

## 2014 WSCFF Convention Resolution

1 WHEREAS: Governor Inslee has authorized a \$300,000 study due March 1, 2015, to determine  
 2 if it is possible to safely move this oil through our state; now therefore be it  
 3  
 4  
 5 RESOLVED: That the WSCFF asks Governor Inslee to do all in his power to halt the movement  
 6 of this crude by rail until completion of his study in March 2015 and the  
 7 determination that this crude by rail can be moved safely through our cities and  
 8 rural areas; and be it further  
 9  
 10 RESOLVED: The WSCFF asks that if Governor Inslee and appropriate state agencies determine  
 11 after March 2015 that this crude by rail is safe to move through our cities and rural  
 12 areas, the WSCFF be informed as to the existence of adequate public resources to  
 13 prepare for and deal with oil fires, spills and derailments; and be it further  
 14  
 15 RESOLVED: The WSCFF and its affiliates will work closely with communities it now serves to  
 16 inform them of our concerns about crude by rail transportation and engage them in  
 17 discussions about maintaining a healthy and safe community based on prevention  
 18 and preparation.  
 19  
 20 SUBMITTED BY: Floor – Approved by 2/3 Standing Vote

Committee	Action Taken	Recommendation
Safety and Health		Do Pass
Legislative		Do Pass
Floor	Adopted	

ASSIGNED DESIGNATION: