

**RESOLUTION NO. 904**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO  
THE RAIL TRANSPORT OF CERTAIN PETROLEUM  
PRODUCTS THROUGH GRAYS HARBOR.**

**R E C I T A L S:**

1. The Council and Mayor have been informed that between 29 April and 21 May of 2014, there were four derailments of the Genesee and Wyoming rail line between Centralia and Aberdeen that raise serious questions about the capability of this rail line to handle current export commodities let alone 150 car unit trains of explosive Bakken and tar sands crude oil.

2. Officials of the Genesee and Wyoming railroad have acknowledged they were unaware of the poor condition of the railway and the rail bed of the line through Grays Harbor County.

3. In July 2013 a line of train tank cars with unproven safety records filled with Bakken and tar sands crude oil derailed in Lac Mégantic, Québec, resulting in the destruction of 40 buildings and the deaths of 47 people.

4. It is a concern as to whether the emergency response teams of the city of Montesano, as well as the

surrounding cities, are adequately equipped to handle explosions and fire from railcars carrying crude oil or other flammable petroleum distillates.

5. Various groups and organizations, including the Washington State Council of Firefighters, through their legislative lobbyist Geoff Simpson, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 77 SeaTac, through their business manager Lou Walter, the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union Local 4, Vancouver, through their president Cager Claubaugh, and Railroad Workers United, Spokane, through their Steering Committee member Robert Hill, have registered strong opposition due to safety concerns as to the transportation and storage of crude oil anywhere in the state of Washington.

6. Further, the Council has been informed that catastrophic explosions, spills, and death due to derailments of tankers carrying Bakken, tar sands, and other crude oil have also occurred in Castleton, North Dakota, New Brunswick, Canada, Aliceville, Alabama, Lynchburg, Virginia, and other sites within the year since July 2013 and could occur in any town along the rail line including Montesano.

7. The seafood industry accounts for nearly half of the region's economic value and that industry would be irreparably devastated by spills of crude oil into the waters of Grays Harbor.

8. The Council has also been informed that shipments of fruits, grains, and other vital commodities are experiencing delays and stoppages due to precedence being given to crude oil trains resulting in goods damage and higher prices.

9. Agencies of the United States government, including the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), have, in July of 2014, proposed an overhaul of safety standards for transporting crude oil by rail due to the safety concerns over railroad conditions and the conditions of the DOT 111 tank cars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONTESANO, THE MAYOR SIGNING IN AUTHENTICATION THEREOF:

SECTION I. The City Council requests that the Commissioners of the Port of Grays Harbor reconsider their proposal to build three marine terminals for the transfer of Bakken, tar sands, and other crude oil which will result in this oil being transported in railcars with unproven safety records through our urban centers, farm areas, and the city itself thus endangering the health, safety, welfare, and economic viability of our citizens, the natural environment that supports the fishing and shellfish industries, and our entire County.

SECTION II. Further, the City Council requests as follows:

A. That cities and other governing bodies responsible for current permits consider rescinding current permits and deny future permitting in light of new information regarding rail safety and the volatility and explosiveness of the crude oil products involved; this information not being presented at the time of the original permit requests.

B. That the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board analyze and study the potential economic effect of this oil train traffic on the displacement of existing economic activity and the potential loss of access to rail transport by local and regional shippers.

C. That the Honorable Jay Inslee, in his capacity as Governor of this State, in accordance with the Centennial Accord of 1989 between the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and the State of Washington, work directly with the Skokomish Tribe, Chehalis Confederated Tribes, the Nisqually Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Quinault Nation, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, and other tribes, to protect their treaty rights and fishing resources which are threatened by proposed oil terminals, expanding oil refineries and the routing through their territories of crude oil unit trains carrying Bakken, tar sands, and other crude oil.

PASSED THIS 14th DAY OF  
OCTOBER, 2014, by the City Council of the  
City of Montesano, and signed in authentication thereof this  
17th day of OCTOBER, 2014.

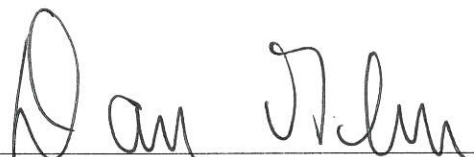
CITY OF MONTESANO:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KENNETH ESTES, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KRISTY POWELL, Clerk-Controller

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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DANIEL O. GLENN, City Attorney