



We, the undersigned organizations, oppose expansion of oil infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest, will fight to ensure that the crude oil already moving through our communities is transported as safely as possible, and believe in accelerating our transition towards clean energy in order to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Crude Oil Transport Threatens Our Communities, Economy, and Waterways

The new types of crude oil now coming into our region pose dramatic risks never seen before; highly explosive crude oil from the Bakken shale oil region of North Dakota and Montana and heavy and corrosive crude oil from the Tar Sands region of Alberta. These oils are coming in via heavy mile-long unit trains. They are causing traffic congestion, spilling oil along the route, and exploding upon derailment. Oil is also coming in via barges and tankers, increasing vessel traffic and risk of oil spills. And, the oil is coming in through the crude oil pipeline directly to refineries. The recent increase in oil transport has impacts ranging from rail congestion that limits other products getting to markets, street congestion where the trains run at grade, toxic pollution from diesel exhaust which can cause serious long-term health problems like lung and heart disease; to increased vessel traffic and impacts to marine life. Across North America, we have seen what accidents do to the waterways and communities. From the tragic explosion in Lac Megantic, Quebec to the pipeline spills into the Yellowstone and Kalamazoo Rivers to the barge spill on the Mississippi, the loss of life and devastating impacts to natural resources and the economy is devastating. We are taking action today to protect our communities and our waterways.

We Can Do Better

The oil industry stands to make huge profits. The Northwest and all the communities along the rail, pipeline, and vessel routes would pay the price of an accident in human lives, oil spills, loss of natural resources and more. We can do better than transport risky oil through our region by working towards energy solutions that systematically over time decrease our use of oil and help us avoid catastrophic climate change.

Washington and Oregon have long and proud histories of economic innovation, and already support thousands of high-tech and clean energy jobs. We should focus on building those industries – not supporting old industries like oil.

We will do everything in our power to prevent the Pacific Northwest from becoming a gateway for crude oil, address the real safety risk of what is already here and work towards transitioning towards cleaner energy.