

May 12, 2015

Howard Shelanski
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Re: Hazardous Materials: Enhanced Tank Car Standards and Operational Controls for High-Hazard Flammable Trains RIN # f2137-AE91

Dear Mr. Shelanski:

Contra Costa County is located in the San Francisco Bay Area and is home to four petroleum refineries. Most of the crude oil to these refineries arrives by either California intrastate pipeline or by marine vessels. There are projections that within the next couple of years up to 25% of the crude oil that will be used in California will be shipped by the railroads. Two long-haul railroads operate in the County, BNSF and UP.

The County Board of Supervisors represents over a million citizens of the county. Many of the citizens have raised concerns about the increased shipment of crude oil into the County by rail because of the rail accidents that have occurred carry crude oil, specifically the Balken crude oil.

The County's Board of Supervisors has authorized me to sign this letter of support to make sure if crude oil is going to continue to be shipped by rail that it is done as safely as practicable. The Board strongly supports the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration proposed regulation for "Enhanced Tank Car Standards and Operational Controls for High-Hazard Flammable Trains." The Board supports that the unit trains that carry the crude oil be restricted to 40 mph or less in areas with a population of 100,000 and for the trains that have not complied with the enhance braking requirements to 30 mph. The Board also supports that the Federal Railroad Administration and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Designed Car, or equivalent be part of the final regulations.

Please contact Randall L. Sawyer, the Contra Costa County Chief Environmental Health and Hazardous Materials Officer if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Gioia

cc: Board of Supervisors
Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
Congressman Mike Thompson
Congressman John Garamendi
Randall L. Sawyer, Chief Environmental Health and Hazardous Materials Officer