

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ASTORIA CITY COUNCIL IN OPPOSITION TO  
PROPOSED OIL TRAIN TERMINALS IN THE LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER**

**WHEREAS**, the availability of fossil fuel resources in the western United States and Canada has resulted in numerous facility and infrastructure projects proposed to carry fossil fuels along and on the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, there are multiple proposals to establish oil-by-rail terminals in the Lower Columbia River, including the Tesoro Savage Vancouver, WA project, capable of shipping over 360,000 barrels of oil per day, the largest oil-by-rail terminal proposed in North America; and

**WHEREAS**, a dramatic increase in train and tanker shipments of oil would increase the probability of oil spills threatening public safety, wildlife habitat, fisheries, air and water quality, communities, and economies along the Columbia River, including Astoria; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been a series of North American oil train derailments and spills, and one on June 3, 2016 in Mosier, Oregon, the result of track deficiencies, released 42,000 gallons of oil into the environment, some of it reaching the Columbia River; and

**WHEREAS**, a June 2017 Washington Department of Ecology draft Columbia River Vessel Traffic Evaluation and Safety Assessment (CRVTSA) outlines the potential impact of proposed crude oil projects, analyzes risk and presents a series of risk mitigation recommendations which, if implemented, would result in Best Achievable Protection for maritime shipping; and

**WHEREAS**, a March 2015 Washington Department of Ecology Marine & Rail Transportation Study outlined crude by rail and marine transport risk concerns and mitigation strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation's May 1, 2015 Final Rule, "Enhanced Tank Car Standards and Operational Controls for High-Hazard Flammable Trains" makes strides in reducing the probability and consequence of oil by rail disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, there remain nonetheless serious concerns about the ability of the oil by rail transport system to adequately prevent and respond to derailments and spills, not limited to maintenance of tracks and associated equipment, eliminating substandard, legacy railcars, and notifying affected jurisdictions regarding the details of rail shipments; and

**WHEREAS**, these outstanding deficiencies present unacceptable risk levels for spills of crude oil entering the Columbia River and causing significant damage to its ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cities of Spokane, Vancouver, Portland and Seattle, the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, and others have expressed profound concerns and opposition to the Tesoro Savage proposal in Vancouver;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Astoria opposes any proposed oil by rail projects along the Columbia River and its watershed, and fully supports implementation of all recommendations of the aforementioned studies and reports.

ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL THIS 7th DAY OF AUGUST 2017.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS 7th DAY OF AUGUST 2017.

ATTEST:  
  
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City Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ROLL CALL ON ADOPTION YEA  
Councilor      Nemlowill      ~~X~~  
                    Brownson      ~~X~~  
                    Price            ~~X~~  
                    Jones            ~~X~~  
Mayor LaMear

NAY                      ABSENT