

March 17, 2015

Honorable Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-2002

RE: City of Camas' Concerns about Oil Train Safety

Dear Governor Inslee:

With the recent crude oil train car explosions in Illinois and West Virginia, the City of Camas Council is concerned about the safety of oil trains passing through our city. A major east-west railroad corridor passes through Camas adjacent to our downtown, residential areas, the Georgia Pacific Paper Mill and the Columbia River and its tributaries. The number of crude oil railroad cars passing through our city continues to increase and if there is a terminal located in Vancouver, Washington, the numbers will significantly increase.

The City supports your efforts to have the oil industry increase their safety and preparedness measures. Our Fire Department is not equipped to respond to a train derailment and explosion similar to the recent events in Illinois and West Virginia. Fortunately, those events occurred in rural areas. If a similar event occurred in Camas or a comparable location, we risk significant loss of life and property damage. We as a region need to be prepared and have the resources to respond to this type of event. The railroad needs to be required to carry sufficient liability insurance to cover the cost of responding to an event of this nature and the resulting clean up and restoration that would be necessary.

I appreciate your time and welcome any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Scott Higgins
Mayor