

RESOLUTION NO. 1362

A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPHIBITION OF THE TRANSPORTATION OF CRUDE OIL BY RAIL THROUGH THE CITY OF EDMONDS

WHEREAS, the City Council has a responsibility and a duty to protect the health and safety of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, as a signatory member of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance (“SELA”), Edmonds has committed itself to being a regional and national leader in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change unequivocally linked to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, Edmonds has committed itself to protecting the environment and natural resources of our community, the State of Washington, the United State of America, and the Earth; and

WHEREAS, the burning of fossil fuels in the production of energy is unsustainable and is in stark contradiction to the goals of Edmonds to mitigate and combat the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the transport and use of large volumes of crude oil is not compatible with the City of Edmonds’ role as a regional and national leader in addressing climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds encourages our citizens and visitors to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels in their daily lives to lessen the demand for crude oil; and

WHEREAS, trains carrying crude oil frequently traverse the rail lines that run through the City of Edmonds; and

WHEREAS, the volume of crude oil developed and transported by rail, emanating mainly from the Bakken shale formation in North Dakota, through and into the state of Washington is estimated to increase approximately three-hundred percent from the current level of approximately 19 trains weekly to 57 trains weekly by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has determined that crude oil from the Bakken shale formation may be more flammable, with a lower flash point, than traditional heavy crude oil; and

WHEREAS, rail incidents involving crude oil have increased nearly fifteen-hundred percent between 2010 and 2014, and current trends show no evidence of the number of incidents diminishing; and

WHEREAS, recent derailments, spills, and fires, such as the recent derailment and fire in the Columbia River Gorge area of Mosier, Oregon, as well as the multiple recent derailments,

fires, and oil spills resulting in devastating destruction to both communities and the environment, including the derailment and subsequent explosion and fire in Lac-Mégantic, Québec, which caused the deaths of 47 people, the evacuation of thousands of people, and the destruction of many homes and businesses evidence the necessity to take appropriate measures to safeguard our residents and environment; and

WHEREAS, the rail lines that transport crude oil from the Bakken shale formation run through and by Edmonds' residential, natural, and commercial areas, including: parks, neighborhoods, businesses, a ferry terminal, a senior center, and along Edmonds' waterfront, marshes, and other natural areas; and

WHEREAS, a potential similar derailment, fire, evacuation, and loss of property and life would be devastating to the City of Edmonds and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds is deeply concerned about the threat to life, property, and the environment resulting from derailments leading to oil spills, explosions, and fires from the transport of crude oil by rail; and

WHEREAS, prior resolutions passed by this Council, including: Resolution 1317 (2014), and Resolution 1263 (2011), addressing the health and safety risks of the transportation of fossil fuels via rail have not been adequately addressed by the governments of the State of Washington or the United States of America, have not led to a decrease in the transportation of harmful fossil fuels through our community, and did not account for the recent increases in transportation of fossil fuels via rail through Edmonds;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, THAT:

Section 1: The City Council of the City of Edmonds strongly urges the United States Department of Transportation and the United States Congress to prohibit the transportation of crude oil by rail through the City of Edmonds.

Section 2: Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted by the City Clerk to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, the United States Secretary of Energy, and each member of the United States Congress elected from this State, including: Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, and Representative Jim McDermott; Governor Jay Inslee; each member of the Washington State delegation representing the City of Edmonds from Districts 21 and 32, including: Senator Maralyn Chase, Senator Marko Liias, Representative Cindy Ryu, Representative Ruth Kagi, Representative Strom Peterson, and Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self.

RESOLVED this 28th day of June, 2016.

CITY OF EDMONDS


MAYOR, DAVE EARLING

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK, SCOTT PASSEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:	June 24, 2016
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:	June 28, 2016
RESOLUTION NO.	1362