



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON

February 18, 2015

To: Senate Environment and Natural Resources
Senator Mark Hass, Chair
Members of the Committee
beth.reiley@state.or.us

Re: SB 262 – Increases fees for oil spill prevention program; for planning and preparedness - SUPPORT

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Since the 1950's, the League has been at the forefront of national efforts to protect air, land and water resources. The League's position is that members work to "Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment" with a focus on demanding pollution prevention.

Our testimony in support of SB 262 is consistent with the League's national position and focus on pollution prevention, rather than rapid cleanup and post-spill settlements. Any major increase in fossil fuel industry infrastructure is not congruent with the current national League's Climate Change position. Our members are actively working all over the country to address greenhouse gas reduction and reduce the effects of climate change. The pollution from fossil fuels not only increase greenhouse gas emissions, but the pollution from their usage across the Pacific returns to Oregon via air currents and adds to CO2 PPM (now over 402 PPM), 14.2% higher than what is deemed required for a stable, eco-friendly climate.

With the production of domestic oil in Montana and North Dakota, increased rail & vessel shipment of crude oil has already begun. In many parts of the country record volumes of oil are moving by rail and vessels with multiple spill related accidents. Some major accidents include Lac-Mégantic Quebec province explosion (>\$3Bil) and Kalamazoo River in Michigan, four year >\$ 1.2Bil on-going clean- up. Just this week in West Virginia a massive oil rail explosion and aquatic spill occurred. (potentially >\$1Bil)

Because many of the oil transport facilities and infrastructures go through or are located in highly populated areas, the potential for human danger is high. Additionally, the Columbia River fragile ecosystem is at risk.

SB262 is a first minimal attempt to address appropriate funding for comprehensive prevention measures, preparedness related education requirements and other relevant efforts to prevent the public and environmental tragedy that can accompany oil spill accidents associated with existing insufficient vessel and rail standards and shipping practices.

The League of Women Voters urges your support of SB262 as a first step in addressing this very serious issue.

Robin Wisdom
President

Claudia Keith
Climate Change Portfolio

Attachments (Oil Tanker Spill Statistics 2014, Spikes in Oil Spills)

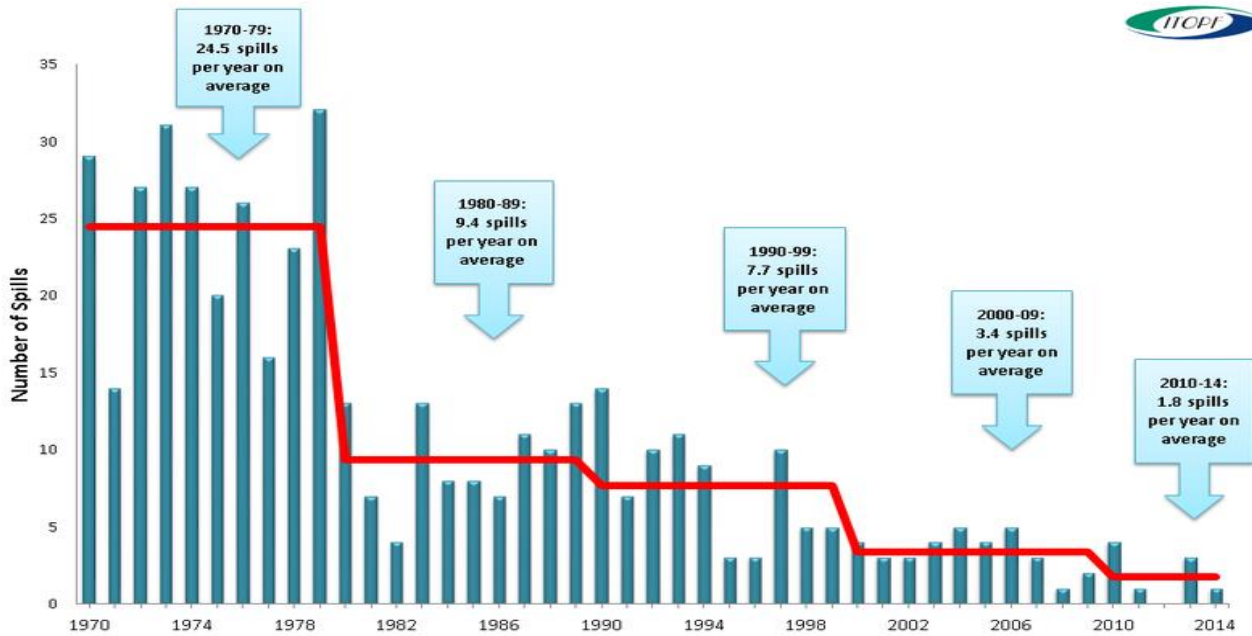
Additional resources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_pipeline_accidents_in_the_United_States_in_the_21st_century

<http://www.itopf.com/knowledge-resources/data-statistics/statistics/>

1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200 • Salem, OR 97302 • 503-581-5722 • Fax: 503-581-9403 • lwvor@lwvor.org • www.lwvor.org

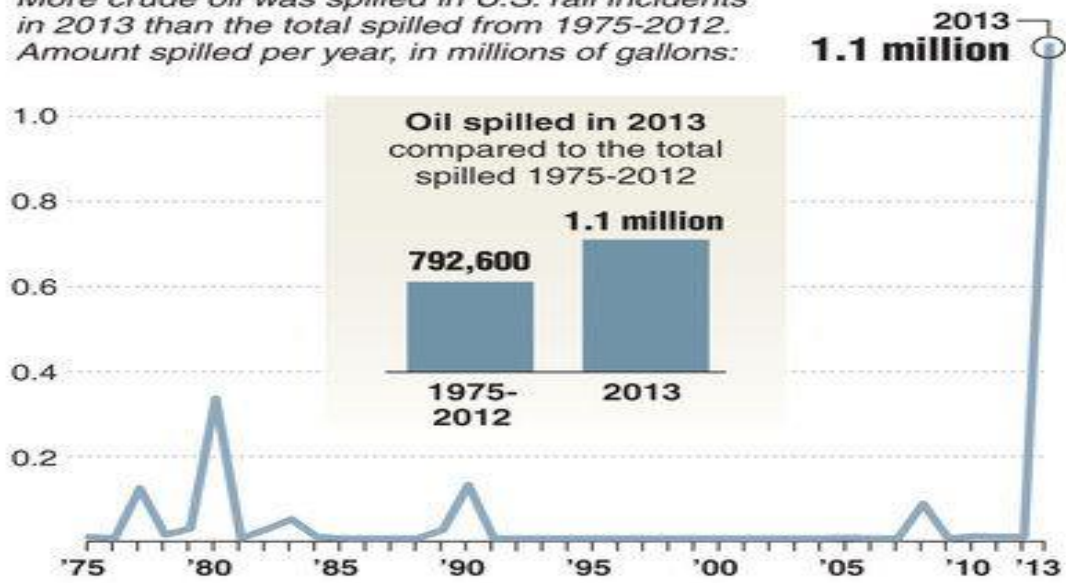
Oil Tanker Spill Statistics 2014



Number of large spills (>700 tonnes) from 1970 to 2014

Spike in oil spills from trains

More crude oil was spilled in U.S. rail incidents in 2013 than the total spilled from 1975-2012. Amount spilled per year, in millions of gallons:



Source: U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2014 MCT