



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF OREGON**

April 9, 2015

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair  
Members of the Committee  
beth.patrina@state.or.us

*Re: HB 3225 Oil Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Planning - 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.** Additionally, the League's Social Policy is very clear; "Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic **justice and the health and safety of all Americans.**"

***Our testimony in support of HB3225 is consistent with the League's national position and focus on pollution prevention, rather than cleanup and post-spill settlements and justice and public safety for all people.***

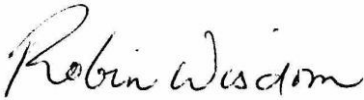
With the production of domestic oil in Montana and North Dakota, increased rail & vessel shipment of crude oil has already begun. In many parts of the country record volumes of oil are moving by rail and vessels with multiple spill related accidents. Some major accidents include Lac-Mégantic Quebec province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

This bill will benefit the health and safety of all Oregonians by reducing the risk to our water resources and other hazards such as explosions (causing air pollution) and other life threatening events.

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, Willamette and Deschutes River fragile eco systems are at risk. We are in agreement with Columbia Gorge Commission and a number of other groups concerning the priority funding for oil and other related oil products, spill and or explosion prevention, preparedness planning and related funding. It appears this HB 3225 addresses all applicable statues relating to the safe transport of hazardous materials; creating new provisions; amending ORS 468B.300, 468B.340, 468B.345, 468B.355, 468B.360, 468B.365, 468B.385 and 468B.412; and prescribing an effective date.

As such, HB3225 is a comprehensive bill / solution to address applicable Oregon safety regulation and appropriate funding for comprehensive prevention measures, preparedness related education, relevant equipment/machinery requirements, extensive training and other efforts to prevent and prepare for the public/ environmental tragedy that can accompany oil spill accidents associated with existing insufficient standard vessel and rail transportation and associated storage practices.

***The League of Women Voters urges your support of HB3225.***



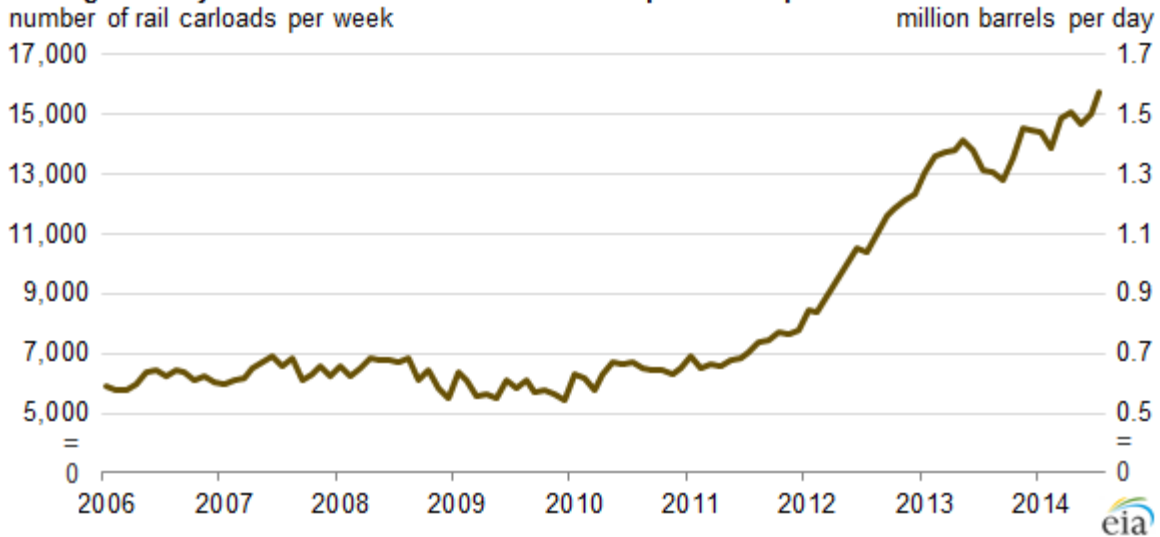
Robin Wisdom  
President, LWVOR



Claudia Keith  
Natural Resources Climate Change Portfolio

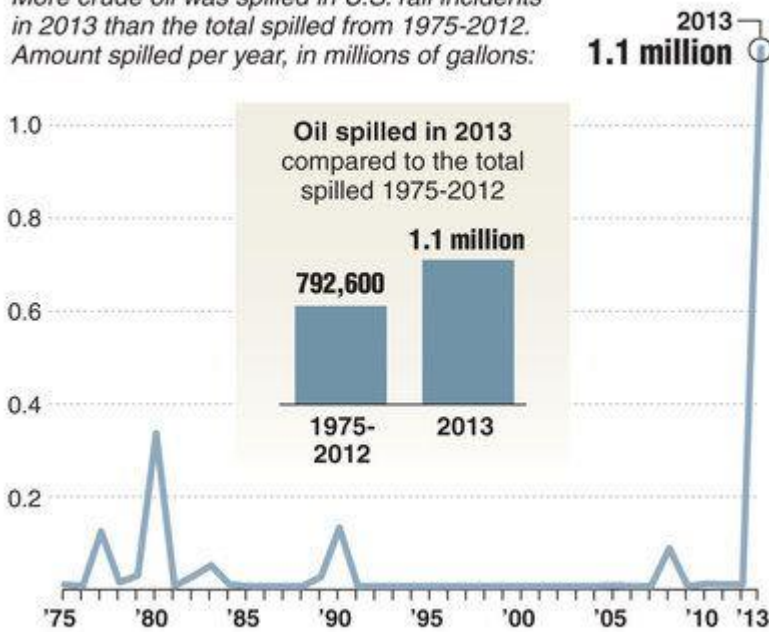
Attachment

### Average weekly U.S. rail carloads of crude oil and petroleum products



## 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

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[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/03/for\\_oregon\\_4\\_oil\\_train\\_acciden.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/03/for_oregon_4_oil_train_acciden.html)

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/rolling-bombs-crude-oil-rail-tankers-threaten-u-s-canada-populations-environment/5439245>