

# House Joint Memorial 3

Sponsored by Representative WITT (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to enact legislation requiring stabilization of crude oil prior to transport.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in leg-  
5 islative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas there has been a significant increase in transport of crude oil by rail in recent years,  
7 with the Association of American Railroads reporting a more than 4,000 percent increase in crude  
8 oil carloads since 2008; and

9 Whereas this increase is largely due to crude oil production from the Bakken region of North  
10 Dakota and Montana; and

11 Whereas according to the North Dakota Pipeline Authority, approximately 700,000 barrels of oil  
12 a day are being transported out of the Bakken region by rail; and

13 Whereas on average, Bakken oil travels more than 1,600 miles to reach its destination; and

14 Whereas trains carry crude oil through both densely populated and environmentally sensitive  
15 areas; and

16 Whereas crude oil is often transported in rail cars that are too easily punctured or ruptured  
17 when derailed, leading to spills; and

18 Whereas on July 6, 2013, a runaway train carrying crude oil derailed in downtown Lac-  
19 Megantic, Quebec, causing an explosion that resulted in the deaths of 47 persons, oil burning and  
20 spilling of approximately 1.5 million gallons and over \$1 billion in damages; and

21 Whereas eight more high profile rail accidents involving crude oil have occurred in North  
22 America since the tragic event in Quebec; and

23 Whereas much of the danger inherent in transporting crude oil lies in its volatile properties and  
24 lack of stability; and

25 Whereas Bakken crude oil has been shown to be highly flammable and more prone to ignite than  
26 traditional heavy crude oil; and

27 Whereas stabilizing crude oil from the Bakken region and elsewhere by stripping flammable  
28 natural gas liquids out of the crude oil would improve the safety of transporting crude oil and  
29 greatly reduce the risk of combustion; and

30 Whereas as transport of crude oil by rail increases in frequency and volume in this state and  
31 throughout the United States, protecting Americans by stabilizing crude oil for transport is of par-  
32 amount importance; now, therefore,

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

2 That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, respectfully request that the  
3 Congress of the United States of America enact legislation requiring that crude oil be stabilized by  
4 removing flammable natural gas liquids prior to transport; and be it further

5 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to  
6 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member  
7 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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