



**Climate Solutions.**  
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

March 13, 2017

Representative Ken Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: HB 2131, HB 3344**

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of the goals of HB 2131 and HB 3344. We strongly oppose expansion of coal and oil transportation (including by rail), storage, and export facilities in Oregon – and support these bills’ steps to reduce the threats they pose to our state.

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. For more than 15 years, Climate Solutions has been working to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction policies that demonstrate that clean energy and broadly shared economic prosperity go hand-in-hand.

As a member of the **Stand Up To Oil Coalition**, Climate Solutions opposes the expansion of oil terminals and an increase in oil transport through the Northwest, while working to improve safety measures for oil currently traveling through the region. These projects put our communities at risk from explosive oil train derailments, huge increases in rail traffic, and spills from trains, tankers, and barges. And each additional project adds to the problem of carbon pollution and climate disruption. Dangerous types of oil – volatile Bakken crude from the Midwest and toxic tar sands oil from Canada – pose unique risks to public health and the environment.

**HB 2131** is a step in the right direction to improve the safety of flammable oil being transported by rail near our state’s many treasures: our towns, our natural places and our people. The requirement for proof of financial responsibility in case of a worst case oil spill is necessary to hold railroad companies responsible given the high risks posed by these hazardous oil trains and the frequency of spills and explosions. Last summer’s devastating explosion of an oil train in Mosier serves as a prominent example of what Oregon must protect against in the future.

**HB 3344** will help follow the historic leadership demonstrated by Portland in the transition from fossil fuels to a new energy economy in three ways: ensuring greater scrutiny of oil terminals, requiring review before oil terminals can be built on waterways, and prohibiting state

transportation funding for oil-by-rail terminal infrastructure. Pioneers in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable fuels call Oregon and the Northwest home for a reason. We can succeed economically by innovating, commercializing and marketing energy strategies that reduce fossil fuel dependence, promote clean development, and deliver real climate solutions.

We urge you to vote for these bills for Oregon's health and safety. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Meredith Connolly  
Oregon Policy Manager

[ClimateSolutions.org](http://ClimateSolutions.org)

**Seattle**

1402 Third Avenue, Ste 1305  
Seattle, WA 98101  
tel 206.443.9570  
fax 206.624.2022

**Olympia**

219 Legion Way SW, Ste 201  
Olympia, WA 98501  
tel 360.352.1763  
fax 360.943.4977

**Portland**

222 NW Davis St, Ste 300  
Portland, OR 97209  
tel 503.332.9893