



## OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

1821 SE ANKENY ST • PORTLAND, OR 97214  
PHONE (503) 238-0442 • FAX (503) 238-6281  
OREGON.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG  
WWW.OREGON.SIERRACLUB.ORG

To: Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: March 13, 2017

RE: House Bill 2131 and House Bill 3344

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee: Good afternoon, my name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters in Oregon, I wanted to offer our support for House Bills 2131 and 3344.

As an organization with a long history working to move beyond fossil fuels in Oregon, we believe that HB 2131 and HB 3344 are both worthy of your support. HB 2131 would require contingency plans and training for oil train-related spills; require fees on railroads to improve oil spill response and establish funding for emergency preparedness; and require railroads to have adequate insurance to cover worst-case oil train derailments. House Bill 3344 will use the state's removal-fill permitting authority to increase scrutiny of oil-by-rail terminals; remove the loophole that allows oil terminals to be built on state waterways without review; and prohibit state transportation funding for oil-by-rail terminal infrastructure.

We have all seen the devastating impacts of oil train derailments in Mosier, Oregon, last summer and Lac Megantic, Quebec, in 2013. We must take action in our state to prevent further disasters here. These bills contain significant, common sense steps to address oil terminals and oil train safety in Oregon, which has the weakest laws on the west coast related to those matters. And in addition to the safety and terminal siting issues, the Sierra Club also has concerns about the climate impacts of perpetuating the transport of dirty and dangerous fossil fuels through Oregon. We cannot allow our state to become an unregulated throughway for these materials.

For these reasons, we strongly support House Bill 2131 and House Bill 3344 and we urge this Committee to do the same. It is time to bring Oregon's laws up to date in protecting the safety of our communities and protecting our environment. Thank you very much for considering my comments and I'd be happy to answer any questions.