



June 27, 2017

Senator Jackie Winters and Representative Duane Stark, Co-Chairs  
Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Public Safety  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: HB 2131-A**

CO-Chairs Winters and Stark and Members of the Committee,

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.

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

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. As a member of the Stand Up To Oil Coalition, Climate Solutions opposes an increase in oil transport through the Northwest and the expansion of oil terminals, while working to improve safety measures for oil currently traveling through the region.

**HB 2131-A** 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.

We urge you to support HB 2131-A for Oregon's health and safety. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Meredith Connolly  
Oregon Policy Manager

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