



## 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

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To: Members of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: February 8, 2018

RE: House Bill 4004

Chair Evans and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 25,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Oregon, I am pleased to submit this written testimony in support of House Bill 4004.

As an organization with a long history working to move beyond fossil fuels in Oregon, we believe that HB 4004 is important legislation that is worthy of your support. As you know, HB 4004 would require railroads with high hazard routes to have 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.

We have all seen the devastating impacts of oil train derailments in Mosier, Oregon, in 2016 and in Lac Megantic, Quebec, in 2013. We must take action in our state to prevent further disasters here. This bill contains significant, common sense steps to address oil train safety in Oregon, which has the weakest railroad safety laws on the west coast. And in addition to the safety 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 4004 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 our comments and please let me know if I can be of further assistance to the committee.