



**Climate Solutions**  
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

February 7, 2019

Representative Paul Evans, Chair  
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: HB 2209**

Chair Evans and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of **HB 2209**. We oppose expansion of coal and oil transportation (including by rail), storage, and export facilities in Oregon – and support 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.

**HB 2209** 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 increased contingency planning and preparations along with 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. The devastating explosion of an oil train in Mosier in 2016 serves as a lasting and prominent example of what Oregon must protect against in the future.

As a core 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.

We urge you to support HB 2209 and other legislation this session such as HB 2858, to address these serious issues. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

David Van't Hof Policy Consultant, Climate Solutions