



February 10, 2020

House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Support HB 4105

Dear Chair Power and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

Friends of the Columbia Gorge wishes to express its support of HB 4105. HB 4105 includes necessary steps to address the dangers of transporting highly volatile crude oil by rail through Oregon.

Every oil train traveling to Oregon and Washington passes through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The 2016 derailment of a Union Pacific oil train in Mosier brought home the risks of transporting oil by rail through our communities and through Oregon's natural scenic treasures. Passage of HB 2209, the oil train emergency response bill in 2019 was a good first step, but there is more work to be done to lessen the risk to communities and the Columbia River Gorge.

HB 4105 would fill some of the gaps left in HB 2209. It would set a vapor pressure limit of nine pounds per square inch for crude oil accepted at Oregon facilities, consistent with a law passed in Washington in 2019. It would also require facilities accepting crude oil in Oregon to provide advance notification to the State Fire Marshall. These are common-sense steps for protecting the Gorge and Oregon's rail communities who are in the path of oil trains coming to Oregon. Furthermore, these steps are within the state's authority and would not be preempted by federal law.

In addition, HB 4105 would limit construction of new crude oil and gas projects on state-owned lands and waters. Oregon's public lands and waters belong to everyone. These lands and waters of the state should not be used to expand fossil fuel infrastructure and enrich the oil industry at a time when we should be transitioning away from fossil fuel dependence. The bill would not affect the repair of existing facilities or impair any existing leases or purchase agreements.

Please support HB 4105.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Lang".

Michael Lang
Conservation Director