

RESOLUTION NO. 20 OF 2015

Moved by:



A resolution urging Congress and the United States Department of Transportation to review and update specifications for tank car design and regulations to lessen the number of oil train derailments and for rail companies to rapidly upgrade and replace crude oil tank cars and urging greater communication between the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and local emergency management officials to better prepare for oil train accidents.

**WHEREAS**, the volume of crude oil, specifically Bakken Shale crude oil, carried by rail has increased significantly in the past few years, with over four hundred thousand (400,000) tank cars carrying this liquid throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately twenty five (25) trains each week, each carrying dozens of tank cars of North Dakota Brakken Shale crude oil, travel through the City of Harrisburg and surrounding areas; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota Bakken Shale crude oil is more volatile, corrosive and flammable than other types of crude oil; and

**WHEREAS**, The DOT-111 tank cars that are used to transport Bakken Shale crude are not designed to carry this hazardous liquid and proposed changes to federal regulations have yet to be finalized, allowing these insufficient cars to continue to be used; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety and welfare of the people of Harrisburg is of paramount importance and the City of Harrisburg has the responsibility to ensure that its community is protected from potential safety concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been devastating rail car accidents posing significant risks to life, property, and the environment. In July 2013 forty seven (47) people perished and thirty (30) downtown buildings were destroyed in Lac-Megantic, Quebec when a train derailed and multiple train cars carrying Bakken Crude oil exploded. Most recently, on February 16, 2015, a State of Emergency was declared when fourteen (14) tank cars containing Bakken Crude oil caught fire and destroyed a house in Mount Carbon, West Virginia after a train derailment. The accident

brought the issue of the safety of rail transportation of Brakken Crude to the forefront of public concern; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been at least three accidents in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, one near Pittsburgh and two more in Philadelphia, thankfully without loss of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the 17104 zip code in the City of Harrisburg is the eighth most at-risk zip code in the Commonwealth, with sixteen thousand seven hundred and one (16,701) people living within the evacuation zone of an accident; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Government is currently reviewing increased safety requirements for certain trains carrying flammable liquids in order to minimize the frequency and reduce the danger posed by derailments and accidents. These requirements would phase out many older tank car models currently in use, now.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Harrisburg City Council urges Congress and the United States Department of Transportation to release specifications for tank car design and for rail companies that have Bakken Crude oil trains travelling through Harrisburg to rapidly upgrade and replace crude oil tank cars.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Harrisburg City Council implores rail companies that have Bakken Crude oil trains travelling through Harrisburg to replace DOT 111 tank cars and other older model tank cars used to move flammable liquids that are not retrofitted to meet new federal requirements and the highest safety standards.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Harrisburg City Council urges Congress and the United States Department of Transportation to review and implement regulations that lower the speed limit of these trains and the number of cars that can carry Bakken Crude oil on each train, which would help prevent derailments and make the potential for disaster less likely.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Harrisburg City Council urges the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Dauphin County's Office of Emergency Management and the City of Harrisburg Emergency Management Authorities to work together to proactively and fully disclose train schedules and routes to first responders, initiate emergency response workshops specific to major oil train derailments in communities along the rails and review and update the

City's emergency response plan, evacuation routes and hazardous materials response plan for the increasing risks imposed by the transport of crude oil by rail with sixty (60) days of the adoption of this resolution.

I second this resolution Wanch R. Williams

Passed the City Council April 14, 2015

Wanch R. Williams

President of City Council

R. Williams

City Clerk

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MR. ALLATT    |      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MR. BALTIMORE |      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS. DANIELS   |      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MR. KOPLINSKI |      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS. REID      |      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS. WILSON    |      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS. WILLIAMS  |      |
| Yeas <u>7</u>                                     |      |
| Nays <u>0</u>                                     |      |