

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON**
WashCoDems 2016-013

Regarding the Transportation of Volatile Fossil Fuels

WHEREAS the bulk transportation of fossil fuels, particularly oil, from one place to another creates the potential for environmental damage and human health risk along the paths of movement; and

Whereas 1.15 million gallons of crude oil spilled from rail cars in the U.S. in 2013¹; and

WHEREAS it has been reported that "...423 oil trains have crashed in the U.S. Since 2010, those crashes have cost about \$45 million in damages. In just the first six months of 2015, 31 oil train crashes cost almost \$30 million in damages, mostly due to a major crash in West Virginia."² ; and

WHEREAS in Oregon, oil transportation companies need only show \$10 million in reserves³ to pay for potential damage mitigation and claims; and

Whereas recent testimony regarding the proposed Tesoro Terminal in Vancouver, Washington (January 5, 2016) confirmed that local fire departments have neither the equipment to control nor adequate training to respond fully to major oil spill incidents along the routes of passage:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY THAT:

- 1) We ask our legislators (state and federal) to levy suitable fees on the transport of fossil fuels sufficient to ensure the ability of first responders to adequately respond to such incidents and to cover the costs of damages to the environment and impacted community.
- 2) We will contact our state and national legislative representatives to advise them of our concerns and report back to the Washington County Democratic Central Committee on their responses.

¹ McClatchy DC, January 20, 2014

² Benicia Independent, November 2, 2015

³ Truthout, September 15, 2015

Submitted: January 2016, Kathy Wnorowski; Reviewed & passed: Platform & Resolutions Committee, January 2016.