

FACT SHEET

# Protecting Oregonians and the Environment and Promoting Safe Oil Transport

## Oregonians are Committed to Preserving the Natural Environment

As Oregon residents and businesses, we take pride in our natural environment and are committed to its protection and preservation. In a recent survey, more than 60 percent of Oregon voters rated environmental protection as an “8” or higher in importance on a scale from 1-10.

## They Also Believe Environmental Protection Should Be Balanced with a Strong Economy

In that same survey, nearly 64 percent of poll respondents said that “job creation and economic growth” should be our state’s top priority.

## Oregonians Believe That Rail Shipments Are Safe...Because They Are. (and Getting Better All the Time)

Just over 60 percent of Oregonians believe that railroads can ship hazardous materials efficiently through the state while maintaining high safety standards. They are right. North America’s freight railroads deliver more than 99.9 percent of all crude oil and

other hazardous materials shipments without incident. That’s why the petroleum industry increasingly relies on rail shipping to get their products to Oregon consumers.

## Railroads Going Above & Beyond

Railroad operators in Oregon continue to make voluntary safety improvements. Union Pacific (UP), the operator of the rail line on the Oregon side of the Gorge, has replaced all lag bolts on track curves in the Gorge, adjusted speeds, increased its rigorous track maintenance and inspections, and strategically positioned response equipment at key points along the routes on which most oil travels in the state. UP has deployed leading technologies such as laser and ultrasound testing to identify rail imperfections, acoustic wheel vibration tracking, and trackside sensors that perform real-time analysis on every car in the UP system. In addition and in coordination with the state’s ongoing training efforts, over the last two years the railroads have provided comprehensive hazmat

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response training to more than 2,300 Oregon emergency responders and funding to help hundreds more get various levels of oil-specific response training.

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### The Petroleum Industry is Doing Its Part to Protect our Communities

Additionally, the petroleum industry has invested more than \$3 billion since 2011 for new tank cars and to retrofit existing tanks to meet or exceed federal safety standards. Thicker steel, heatshields, and valve protection all reduce the risk of explosion or fire in an incident.

### Oregonians are Concerned About the Impact of More Regulation on Fuel Costs

According to 62 percent of Oregonians changes in gas prices impact their budgets “somewhat” or “a lot.” Which is probably why only 38 percent say “We need more regulations trains and railroads shipping oil in Oregon, even if that means less jobs and increased energy costs.”

### Petroleum Products Continue to Drive Oregon’s Economy

Oregonians recognize that, no matter how quickly alternative energy sources are developed, traditional fuels will remain key to our economic health. Nearly 80 percent say that Oregon will need to continue using traditional

sources of energy like oil and natural gas as we transition to more renewable energy sources. While Oregon is a national leader in the adoption of electric vehicle technology, electric vehicles still represent less than one-third-of-one-percent of vehicles registered in the state. With Oregonians traveling more than 20.6 billion miles on state highways, we need a reliable way to get traditional fuels to drivers around the state.

### Oregon’s Support for Energy Independence Rides on the Rails

Of all Oregonians surveyed, 80 percent believe that energy independence from the Middle East is important for America’s security and economic future. In addition, 73 percent support developing America’s energy reserves to reach this goal. Rail is the primary method for getting these products to Oregon consumers safely, efficiently, and cost-effectively.

### Rail Shipments are also the Best Environmental Answer

It would take 280 tanker trucks to ship the volume of petroleum products carried by a single train. That’s a lot more fuel burned and a lot more exposure to potential accidents.

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