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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators O'Ban, Rolfes, Ericksen, Ranker, Sheldon, Benton, Baumgartner, Schoesler, Braun, Fain, Parlette, and Holmquist Newbry

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE  
5 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The number of freight trains carrying potentially  
10 hazardous liquids and gases through Washington has increased and will  
11 continue to increase; and

12 WHEREAS, Accidents involving rail tanks carrying potentially  
13 hazardous liquids and gases pose significant risks to communities,  
14 families, and businesses located near rail lines, as well as overall  
15 public health; and

16 WHEREAS, The safety and preservation of Washington communities and  
17 natural areas is crucial to the economic stability and health of the  
18 state of Washington; and

19 WHEREAS, Tanks carrying potentially hazardous liquids and gases by

1 rail should meet the highest safety standards and utilize the best  
2 technology to minimize the impact of accidents;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
4 Congress of the United States of America toughen existing standards for  
5 new tank rail cars and require that the approximately ninety-two  
6 thousand existing tank rail cars used to transport flammable liquids,  
7 including potentially hazardous liquids and gases, be retrofitted with  
8 advanced safety enhancing technologies or, if not upgraded, phased out  
9 of service.

10 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
11 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
12 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
13 House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of  
14 Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department of  
15 Transportation.

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