



*City of Alexandria, Virginia*  
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*William D. Euille*  
Mayor

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May 28, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of the US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Rail Transportation of Crude Oil and Ethanol Products**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, I am writing to express our utmost concern with rail transportation of hazardous and/or highly flammable materials such as crude oil and ethanol through densely populated areas including our City. Furthermore, I would like to reiterate the urgent need to improve tank car design to significantly improve its resistance to rupture and spills in case of an accident or derailment.

I applaud the U.S. Department of Transportation's recent issuance of a nonbinding safety advisory recommending that rail companies pull older cars out of service for crude shipments and use sturdier rail tankers less likely to rupture and explode. This is a good first step, but is still far from a final solution to the issue at hand. Canadian regulators announced recently that they were setting a mandatory three-year deadline for the older-model tank cars to be either retrofitted or retired.

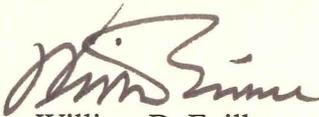
On behalf of the Alexandria community and Council, I respectfully urge you to adopt a national policy requiring much tougher safety standards for tank cars that carry hazardous and/or flammable materials. Also, I strongly endorse the three recommendations that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recently issued to the Federal Railroad Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, namely the following: 1) require expanded hazardous materials route planning for railroads to avoid populated and other sensitive areas; 2) develop an audit program to ensure rail carriers that carry petroleum products have adequate response capabilities to address worst-case discharges of the entire quantity of product carried on a train; and 3) audit shippers and rail carriers to ensure that they are properly classifying hazardous materials in transportation and that they have adequate safety and security plans in place.

*"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"*

I am cognizant that rail transportation of crude oil is a part of our nation's direction to become energy independent, but we need to make sure the routes are well planned, the tank cars are as robust as possible, and the hazardous materials are properly classified.

I thank you for your consideration of our concerns regarding rail transportation of crude oil and ethanol products and hope that your department would soon come to a long-term resolution of this critical issue facing localities and their residents all across this country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William D. Euille', written in a cursive style.

William D. Euille  
Mayor

cc:

The Honorable Members of City Council

Rashad M. Young, City Manager

James L. Banks, Jr., City Attorney

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager

Richard J. Baier, PE, LEED AP, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

Andrew Snead, Acting Chief, Fire Department