

Introduced by:

Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Sponsor
Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Sponsor
Hon. Nancy Low-Hogan, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Barry S. Kantrowitz, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Toney L. Earl, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Michael M. Grant, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Douglas J. Jobson, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Philip Soskin, Co-Sponsor

Referral No. 4124

April 1, 2014

RESOLUTION NO. 161 OF 2014
EXPRESSING OUR SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGETIC ADVOCACY OF OUR
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR INCREASING THE STRICTNESS OF THE
REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN RAIL TRANSPORT OF HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS

CORNELL/EARL, GRANT, JOBSON, LOW-HOGAN, PAUL, SOSKIN, WOLFE:
UNAN.

WHEREAS, the CSX railroad traverses Rockland County from the New Jersey border at the south and extends to Bear Mountain at the north end, about six miles below West Point. Its route through the County takes it right next to Lake DeForest Reservoir and the Hackensack River, drinking water sources for close to one million New Yorkers and New Jerseyans. The tracks virtually abut other highly sensitive areas in Rockland County including one of the largest malls in the United States; the Haverstraw Bay, designated a Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat by New York State Department of State; and the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, given the CSX line's proximity to highly dense population centers as well as nationally significant and environmentally fragile sites, and the occurrence of catastrophic accidents in the nation and near-misses here in Rockland, we insist that all precautions be taken to ensure the utmost safety during the rail transport of the highly flammable Bakkan crude oil and other hazardous liquids; and

WHEREAS, we strongly support Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Schumer and Congresswoman Nita Lowey, who are strong advocates of increasing safety regulations relating to the rail transport of the highly flammable Bakkan crude oil as well as other hazardous liquids, including the following:

1. applying the required reduced speed limit for urban areas to densely populated suburban areas such as Rockland County where the risk posed by an accident is great and could have a widespread impact, both on the population and the environment;
2. improving the safety of the DOT-111 tanker cars by retrofitting them and eventually completely phasing them out, which is necessary because of the high rate of puncture damage to the cars on impact and the resulting fires from leaking liquids;

3. adhering to new FRA regulations that require proper labeling of the contents of the cars; and

4. increasing transparency and improving communications between rail line personnel and first responders in order to protect public health, safety and the environment;

WHEREAS, the Environmental Committee has met, considered and by a unanimous vote, approved this resolution; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Rockland County Legislature hereby expresses its support for the energetic advocacy of our federal representatives for increasing the strictness of the regulations that govern rail transport of hazardous liquids; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and he is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to Hon. Barack H. Obama, President of the United States; Hon. Charles Schumer and Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senators; Hon. Nita M. Lowey, Member of the United States Congress; the President Pro Tem of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives; and to such other persons as the Clerk, in his discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

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