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London
CANADA

January 20, 2014

Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee

Re: Ban on Unsafe Rail Tank Cars Carrying Hazardous Materials

The City of London needs to take action at the Municipal level, not to allow unsafe rail cars that transport highly inflammable materials through our city, unless they are immediately brought up to current safety standards.

There are possibly as many as 80,000 tank cars (DOT-111's) in question, built before 2011, that do not meet current industry safety standards, leading to several crashes of trains carrying crude oil. They are lacking the thicker hulls and reinforced valves to better protect against punctures or leaks in derailments.

Chief Executive William Furman (Greenbrier Inc. – manufacturer and marketer of railroad freight cars in North America) says *"modest but meaningful" improvements that can be implemented immediately, could reduce major risks of a hazardous materials leak by as much as 80 percent in derailments.*" Mr. Furman's comments came after a Canadian National Railway train carrying crude and propane derailed and caught fire late Tuesday in New Brunswick, Canada. The worst accident by far, occurred last July in Lac-Mégantic Quebec, when a runaway train derailed and exploded, killing 47 people.

In Canada, the federal government has required rail companies to notify municipalities when transporting dangerous goods through their communities, however this does not avoid possible derailments and the horrific accidents that can occur due to inadequate safety standards. These safety concerns will continue to rise as the oil-by-rail movement grows, due to the inland oil production boom.

I respectfully request a letter from the Mayor of London, be sent to the Provincial and Federal authorities, to give municipalities like London the power to ban unsafe rail tank cars from their jurisdiction.



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William Furman quote:
World Environment News, Planet Ark, January 9, 2014 [Kristen Hays]

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0108/Train-derailment-Oil-train-catches-fire-in-Canada>

<http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/70801>

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-12-12/news/ct-railroad-tank-cars-met-20131212_1_cars-aldermen-hazardous-materials

http://business.financialpost.com/2014/01/09/risks-of-crude-derailment-disasters-rising-as-trains-haul-more-north-america-oil/?_lsa=fec6-7ff2

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