

RES15-025

Wilmington, Delaware
May 21, 2015

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of public officials to advocate on the behalf of those they represent, and to take every measure possible to mitigate threats to their health and safety; and

#4053

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Cabrera**

Co-Sponsors:

Council
Members
Shabazz
M. Brown
Walsh

WHEREAS, in recent months communities, advocacy groups, lawmakers and members of the public from the local to the national level have engaged in discussions related to regulatory oversight and the mitigation of public safety risks associated with the transportation of crude oil using rail cars; and

WHEREAS, the volume of crude oil carried by rail has increased exponentially in the past decade, while the carriage of especially volatile substances has raised concerns related to the capacity of many types of train cars to properly and safely carry such materials; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia region and the greater Delaware Valley is experiencing growth as a hub for fossil fuel transport and refining, increasing the volume of oil in the area, and thus, increasing the risk to the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, a series of devastating rail car accidents that have taken place over the past few years – including a near disaster resulting from a train derailment in Philadelphia in January 2014 – have resulted in the loss of life and property, and have heightened awareness of the emergency management implications of such transportation practices; and

WHEREAS, crude oil trains travel through, and around, the City of Wilmington on a daily basis, leaving City residents at risk; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports the efforts of federal lawmakers and officials in reviewing safety requirements for trains carrying such volatile and flammable liquids in an effort to minimize the frequency of accidents and mitigate the risk posed by such incidents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Council respectfully urges Congress, the United States Department of Transportation and both City and State emergency management officials to continue in their efforts to assess and mitigate the risks posed by the rail transport of crude oil through the Delaware Valley, and to take into careful consideration the health and safety of residents of the City of Wilmington throughout the process.

Passed by City Council,
May 21, 2015

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 20th
day of May, 2015.

Danya Bhattacharya
Assistant City Solicitor