

TOWN OF OGDEN DUNES

115 Hillcrest Road
Ogden Dunes, Indiana 46368

Phone: (219) 762-4125
Fax: (219) 762-3000

March 12, 2014

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

RE: Pipeline Train Safety

Dear Mr. Foxx:

We are pleased to hear about the latest developments with regard to adopting new voluntary measures aimed at making it safer to ship crude oil by train. In particular, the Town of Ogden Dunes, Indiana is interested in seeing that lower speed limits are adopted by the railroads for these crude oil trains. We also hope that Ogden Dunes will be considered to be within the boundaries of whatever is being defined as an "urban area" in these new safety measures.

Incorporated in 1921, the Town of Ogden Dunes is considered to be within the boundaries of the Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area. It is located on the shores of Lake Michigan and is surrounded by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, a rare biological treasure of the Midwest.

In the past several years there has been a marked increase in the number of crude oil trains passing on the south end of our town. If this town was like most other towns and cities, it would have multiple evacuation routes in the event of an emergency. However, instead this town only has one established access point across four sets of tracks, two of which are owned by Norfolk/Southern, and two of which are owned by the Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad. In other words, there is only one way in, and one way out of the Town of Ogden Dunes.

It has been learned that some of the new rules may only apply to trains with at least 20 carloads of crude. We have no information available at this time to determine whether or not the pipeline trains that traverse our area meet this minimum requirement, however, we would like to request that consideration be given to a number slightly smaller than 20 such as 15 carloads. We are also disappointed that these rules are only voluntary and hope that will be addressed again in the future. Meanwhile, we can only hope that the railroad industry will discover that adopting these rules will have far greater benefits than cutting corners and ignoring safety issues. After all, you can't place a value on human life.

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Enclosed you will find a map that provides context for our location and the dilemma we would face in the event of a disaster we can only hope would never happen. Please seriously consider our predicament, and remember our situation in future discussions with the railroads about this issue.

Many thanks for moving this issue to the forefront so that crude oil can be transported the most efficient and safe way possible. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Bill Gregory
President
Ogden Dunes Town Council

cc: U.S. Congressman Peter J. Visclosky
U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly
State Senator Karen Tallian
Charles Morris, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore