

RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

Coal Trains Resolution

Number:
US11/12-16

Date of Notice:
Wed, 05/09/2012

Legislation, Resolution, or Policy Adoption:
Resolution

Current Status:
Approved at 05/23/2012 Senate Meeting

Motion:

This resolution opposes coal trains passing through Eugene and impacting the health and safety of the University of Oregon community.

Section I.

1.1 *Whereas*, the University of Oregon has consistently been a leader in protecting the environment and air quality within its community; *and*

1.2 *Whereas*, between 500 and 2,000 pounds of dust [1]; *and*

1.3 *Whereas*, coal contains toxic heavy metals - including mercury, arsenic, and lead - and exposure to these toxic heavy metals in high concentrations is linked to cancer, bronchitis, emphysema, black lung disease and birth defects [2]; *and*

1.4 *Whereas*, frequent coal trains passing through Eugene close to campus would harm our campus community by discouraging potential students, distracting from classes, increasing traffic congestion, hindering high speed rail development [3] that could facilitate easier University transport; *and*

1.5 *Whereas*, frequent coal trains have caused small homes near freight rail lines to decrease in value 5-7% [4] and decrease the living quality of housing by campus and near the train tracks; *and*

1.6 *Whereas*, coal is the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions that cause global climate destabilization [5]; *and*

1.7 *Whereas*, younger generations will bear the burdens of increased climate destabilization; *and*

1.8 *Whereas*, the coal that would pass through our community would be burned in Asian nations and produce mercury and other toxic air pollution which would end up in the Northwest's air, water, fish, and wildlife [6]; *and*

1.9 *Whereas*, the University of Oregon mission statement states, "that the university strives to enrich the public that sustains it through . . . the cultivation of an attitude toward citizenship that fosters a caring, supportive atmosphere on campus and the wise exercise of civic responsibilities . . .

Number is determined by the order by which motions are received

Notice is given at least 21 days, generally one month, before consideration by the Senate

A Notice of Motion must contain the following:

Title of Motion

Type of Motion: Must indicate whether it is Legislation, Resolution or Policy Proposal

Sponsor of Motion

Basic Motion Text: Include at least general information about the purpose of the motion and what sort of senate action is being requested.

Final motion text is due to Senate Exec Coordinator at least 8 business days prior to the meeting

Resolutions should include relevant citations and reference materials, either to outside or campus resources

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[and] a commitment to international awareness and understanding, and to the development of a faculty and student body that are capable of participating effectively in a global society.”

Section II.

2.1 *Be it resolved that*, the University Senate of the University of Oregon is opposed to the passage of coal trains through Eugene; *and*

2.2 *Be it further resolved that*, the University Senate is opposed to the creation of a coal export terminal in Coos Bay; AND

2.3 *Be it further resolved that*, the University Senate urges the Governor of Oregon and the Oregon Legislature to work on a comprehensive policy opposing coal export terminals in Oregon.

[1] <http://www.coaltrainfacts.org/key-facts>

[2] <http://climatesolutions.org/nw-states/washington/cherrypoint>

[3] <http://www.coaltrainfacts.org/key-facts>

[4] <http://www.coaltrainfacts.org/entrepreneur-freight-property-values>

[5] <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/feb/15/james-hansen-power-p...>

[6] <http://climatesolutions.org/nw-states/washington/cherrypoint>

Financial Impact:

No funds are being requested for this resolution.

Financial impact information must be included in final motion text

Sponsor:

UO Climate Justice League’s Beyond Fossil Fuels Campaign, Senator Emma Newman, Senator Andrew Lubash

Please include all appropriate related documents in word or PDF format with your final motion text

Related Documents:

Legislative History:

BACKGROUND ON THE MOTION

The proposal of Coal export terminals in the Pacific Northwest has caused alarm due to the environmental harm they would cause. If these terminals are built then open-bed coal trains would go through Eugene, directly impacting the people of this community.

If relevant and available, legislative history must be included in your final motion text. You can research prior Senate actions on the Senate website