



Date: May 23, 2016

RE: Support for 11th Hour funding request

Our community of Stevenson, Washington, is located along the Columbia River and is bisected by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail tracks. Since September, 2012, up to 18 oil trains per week carrying dangerous Bakken oil from North Dakota travel through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and our community. No one ever notified city officials, emergency responders or residents and businesses along the rail line that these dangerous oil trains would be traveling through our community.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge stepped into this void and has played a vital role in informing our community of the risks of oil by rail and the pending proposals for oil by rail terminals in the Northwest that could result in up to 100, mile-long oil trains per week passing through our community. Friends of the Columbia Gorge has helped us engage in the permitting process of these terminals and mobilize our community and emergency responders to get our concerns on the record before decision makers. While the City has not always agreed with the Friends on other issues involving land use and the environment, they have been a real asset to our community in engaging in the debate over oil by rail terminals.

This summer, state and federal regulators will be deciding the fate of what would be the largest oil by rail terminal on the continent – the Vancouver Energy project. It's daunting to have to face oil companies and all of their resources. But with enough resources on our side, we can win. Please consider the fate of our community and the Columbia River when reviewing the funding proposal submitted by Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Cox

Mayor