



CITY COUNCIL  
Linda Maio

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 26, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmembers Linda Maio and Darryl Moore

SUBJECT: Support of H.R. 1679 (Garamendi) to Regulate the Transport of Explosive Crude Oil by Rail

RECOMMENDATION:

Send a letter of support of H.R. 1679 (Garamendi).

BACKGROUND:

The threat of highly volatile and hazardous crude material transported by rail through our cities is a vital concern to our region. Congressman Garamendi has introduced H.R. 1679<sup>1</sup>, which would prohibit the transport of Bakken crude-by-rail that contains a maximum Reid vapor pressure (RVP) of 9.5 psi.

To put this in context: “This is the maximum volatility permitted by the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) for crude oil futures contracts. For context, a recent literature review by Sandia Labs indicates that the North Dakota Petroleum Council’s Study of 152 Bakken crude samples found an average RVP of 11.7 psi and a max of 14.4 psi. A rule will go into effect in North Dakota this month setting the limit at 13.7 psi.”<sup>2</sup>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal staff time

CONTACT:

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1679/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://garamendi.house.gov/press-release/garamendi-urges-immediate-action-keep-communities-safe-oil-rail-press-conference>

