

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
18TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5441

123 GRAND ST., 2ND FLOOR
NEWBURGH, NY 12550
(845) 561-1259

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

May 5, 2014

Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Burwell,

I write to express my deep concern about the lack of safety regulations for transporting crude oil by rail throughout the country, including New York and my district in the Hudson Valley. On Wednesday a freight train carrying crude oil derailed in Lynchburg, VA, sparking a massive fireball spilling oil directly into the James River. In the past year three freight trains have derailed or caused accidents near the Hudson Valley, most recently in Ulster County. We've also seen multiple tragic and disastrous derailments in places like Quebec and North Dakota.

This week, the U.S. Department of Transportation sent a comprehensive rule-making package to your office to ensure safe transportation of crude oil through our cities and towns. I request that you act with utmost urgency to release these rules to the public and initiate a formal public comment process. There's not a moment to waste on finalizing these regulations.

Tank car safety standards must be raised for new and existing cars. Expediting the process of replacing or removing inadequate rail tank cars, or DOT-111 cars, would save lives, property, and our environment in the event of a derailment. Only 14,000 of 92,000 DOT-111 tank cars are currently built to the latest industry standard, which means that 78,000 tank cars prone to splitting during derailments are currently in use. Both the National Transportation Safety Board and the Association of American Railroads have called on the DOT to require phasing-out or retrofitting existing DOT-111 cars that do not feature enhanced design features.

I hope you will act quickly on the recommended DOT safety regulations that would expedite the replacing and retrofitting of dangerously inadequate DOT-111 tank cars. It is essential that we take action immediately to better align safety standards and reduce the risks

associated with crude oil transportation by rail. As we have seen, these accidents happen frequently and without warning, and the safety of my neighbors and our environment is too important to wait.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

CC: President Barack Obama

CC: Secretary Anthony Foxx, U.S. Department of Transportation