

**Powder River Basin Resource Council**  
**Joint Transportation, Highways, and Military Affairs Committee**  
**June 2, 2015**

**Options Available to the State of Wyoming to Increase the Safety of Crude by Rail**

**Conduct an analysis of the risks that crude by rail poses to Wyoming, including identification of high-risk areas of track, and propose specific measures to increase safety**

- The legislature should consider requiring an annual report that details the specific risks that crude by rail poses to the state, and measures that it can take to increase safety

**Obtain data on rail routing, rail car contents, and accident causes**

- Wyoming needs more information from Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the railroads on rail car contents, as well as data on train derailments, their causes, and risk factors specific to crude by rail transit
- Wyoming should also request information relating to:
  - Railroads calculated Worst Case Scenarios for a potential crude oil train emergency
  - Levels of catastrophic insurance coverage
  - High hazard flammable train Comprehensive Emergency Response Plans
  - Route analysis documentation and route selection results

**Require state oil spill contingency plans for trains transporting oil into the state**

- This state-mandated plan would provide an opportunity to secure better emergency response protection for public safety and the environment

**Ensure that state and local emergency personnel can access information on oil shipments immediately in the event of an accident**

- The state should ensure that local emergency response personnel are well trained to deal with any crude by rail accident, and can readily identify the contents of any shipment. Training and information sharing with local emergency response personnel can be paid for by the industry, using a fee or assessment

**Encourage railroads, industry and refineries to work directly with impacted communities**

- Railroads and load out facilities should be required to disclose as much information as possible about shipments, safety measures, and how community members can participate in the process to make their communities safer

**Participate in the federal State Rail Safety Participation Program**

- FRA can delegate part or all of its investigatory and surveillance authority to states to ensure that railroads are adhering to federal railroad safety requirements

**Prioritize track and rail car inspection**

- Inspection of track and rail cars is vital, as derailments are the most common type of train accident in the United States

**Correct safety problems posed by blocked crossings**

- The Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 allows states to regulate railroads outside the federal level if "necessary to eliminate or reduce an essentially local safety or security hazard"