

**John Gioia** (say "Joya")

Supervisor, District I  
Contra Costa County  
Board of Supervisors

**Contra  
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Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin & City Council  
450 Civic Center Plaza  
Richmond, CA 94804



Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

The dramatic increase in the volume of Bakken Shale Crude Oil being transported by rail through Northern California should be of great concern to local government.

Bakken Crude is more volatile and flammable than other heavier types of crude oil and therefore presents a greater risk of explosion, such as occurred last year in rail cars in Quebec, Alabama and North Dakota.

The transport, handling and refining of Bakken Crude raises a number of safety issues that deserve to be addressed by various levels of government – federal, state, regional, and local.

I have asked Randy Sawyer, Director of Contra Costa's Hazardous Materials Program, to identify where the Richmond and Contra Costa Industrial Safety Ordinances (ISO) may have jurisdiction over the safety practices related to refining Bakken Crude at local refineries. Unfortunately, according to Mr. Sawyer, the ISO does not have authority over the off-loading of crude oil from railcars onto trucks if those operations occur in a railyard not located at a refinery.

As the Chair of the Stationary Source Committee of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, I am having the issue of Crude-By-Rail placed on the agenda of our next meeting which is currently being scheduled for the month of April. At that meeting, the Stationary Source Committee will have a chance to hear from various agencies and the public about issues related to crude-by-rail and provide direction about what can be done to address the growing safety concerns.

I have also asked the Air District staff to discuss the authority under which they issued an emissions permit for the Kinder Morgan crude off-loading facility in Richmond. Like all of you, I am concerned that there was no clear communication to policymakers about the implications of issuing such a permit.

I look forward to working with the City of Richmond and others to address what is a growing safety issue for our communities here in the Bay Area.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Gioia".

John Gioia  
Supervisor, District One

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