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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
FRAN PAVLEY

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER  
CHAIR  
ELECTIONS  
ENERGY, UTILITIES &  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING



April 13, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission  
c/o James A. Bergman, Director of Planning and Building  
976 Los Osos Street, Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Commissioners,

As the State Senator for District 27, an area which is likely to be impacted by increased rail traffic to the Phillips 66 Company Santa Maria Refinery Rail Spur Extension Project, I am writing to urge you to deny approval for this project. The route between the rail yard in Colton and the Santa Maria Refinery runs through a significant portion of my district. This includes densely populated areas in the San Fernando Valley and Ventura County.

The U.S. Department of Transportation predicts trains carrying crude or ethanol will derail an average of 10 times per year over the next two decades. The cost of estimated damage is more than \$4 billion, and there is the potential for a high amount of fatalities in densely populated areas. Spills and damage to waterways are also predicted with increased crude-by-rail deliveries. The risks are unavoidable for the communities along the rail tracks. It also exposes us to the added expense of training first responders in oil-spill clean-up and incident response planning.

I join with the opposition you have already received from numerous parties, including the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, and the cities of Moorpark, Camarillo, Ventura and Oxnard. These municipalities have numerous at-grade crossings and rail lines that run through business districts and neighborhoods.

The health and safety of our residents should always be our No. 1 priority.

Sincerely,

*Fran Pavley*

Fran Pavley  
Senator, 27th District

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