SAN LUIS COASTAL
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ERIC PRATER, ED.D.
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San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Letter of Concern for Proposed Phillips 66 Oil Spur Expansion

Honorable Supervisors:

As the superintendent of San Luis Coastal Unified School District, I am charged with the fundamental responsibility for the safety of nearly 7,500 students and nearly 1,000 employees across twenty campuses throughout our district.

Of particular concern to me and our Board of Trustees is Phillips 66's recent proposal to receive crude oil by rail at its Santa Maria Refinery on the Nipomo Mesa from sources east of California. This would result in many additional trains carrying heavy crude oil through our county and near our local schools.

The numerous derailments of both freight and passenger trains around the country have heightened our concerns about rail safety especially as several of our schools are in close proximity to the tracks.

There are no easy solutions to meeting Californians' demands for gasoline and other petroleum products. The fact is, oil products are part of the fabric of so many things in our lives – from our cars to our clothes to medicine to heating our buildings and more. But we do know that rail safety in this country can be substantially improved.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to formally endorse the safety recommendations formulated and approved by the League of California Cities earlier this year. The League's recommended improvements are not only practical and achievable, they are also long overdue.

Sincerely,

Eric Prater

ERIC PRATER, Ed.D
Superintendent

Information Links:
1. League of CA Cities Letter to Secretary Foxx
2. League of CA Cities Policy Statement on Oil-by-Rail

cc: San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission
SLCUSD Board of Trustees
SLO County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jim Brescia

Office of the Superintendent
San Luis Coastal Unified School District
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