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California State Legislature

**SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON**

NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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FAIRS, ALLOCATION
& CLASSIFICATION
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

March 18, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project (Santa Maria Refinery)

Dear Chair Topping and Commissioners:

I write to you as the Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Passenger Rail, the immediate past Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, and the State Senator representing the 19th District. I share the concerns you have heard regarding the proposed Phillips 66 Rail Spur Extension Project and the risks associated with increasing numbers of trains transporting oil through heavily populated areas as well as agricultural or environmentally sensitive areas.

I join with the opposition you have received from the Board of Supervisors for Ventura County and the city councils of Moorpark, Simi Valley, Camarillo, Oxnard, and Ventura. They have identified with specificity the dangers along the Union Pacific Railroad tracks that pass through their jurisdictions.

Formal opposition from Santa Barbara is growing as people become aware that this project will impact their communities as well. Extensive comments addressing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) deficiencies have been submitted jointly by the Communities for a Better Environmental, Center for Biological Diversity, ForestEthics, and Sierra Club and joined by Santa Barbara's Environmental Defense Center. They encapsulate why this project is wrong. The EIR acknowledges the project has significant and unavoidable impacts, yet there is no evaluation of a logical alternative – pipelines.

The additional oil train traffic adds to our air quality problems. It exposes us to the expense of training first responders in oil spill clean-up and incident response planning. It threatens contamination of drinking water sources from derailments. It is statistically significant that in 2013 alone, more crude spilled from trains than spilled in the last four decades combined.

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When weighing the benefits versus the burdens from this project, public health and safety must prevail. It is for these reasons I strongly urge you to deny of this project.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah-Beth Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "n" at the end.

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
Senator, 19th District