Susan Pyburn
1061 Grove Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

November 20, 2014

Murry Wilson
San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos St., Rm. 200
San Luis Obispo, CA

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I am writing out of my concern regarding the proposed rail spur that could result in transit through our city of rail cars carrying toxic crude oil products. As has been shown by unfortunate accidents in other towns, this activity is very dangerous and can result in unforeseeable damage, destruction and death.

There are so many reasons to oppose this activity that I hesitate to attempt to list them. No doubt you already have many other comments which fully document the known and likely hazards.

I live a block and a half from the railroad tracks. I enjoy hearing the sound of the train whistle as it passes. I vehemently urge you to oppose this violation of your stated commitment to preserving the health and safety of our community.

SLO County's government Website affirms its primary Vision as having "a responsible and caring community - safe, resilient and healthy." Further, the primary (stated) mission of the government is to "ensure that safety and basic human needs are met for the people of San Luis Obispo County."

We already rank at the top of many lists - Conde Nast, National Geographic, to name a few. Among our greatest economic assets are tourism, Cal Poly, and agriculture. All three would be negatively impacted by the Phillips rail proposal. Students would be greatly at risk and parents would think twice before sending their children to live under such a threat. Any disaster would result in adverse toxic impacts on agriculture. And tourism...which is based on the well deserved reputation of this area as a clean, safe, charming spot to visit... would be adversely impacted. PYS-01

In short, I can only ask: "What were you thinking?" Surely a few jobs in the oil business cannot be worth the job losses in new construction and related fields, not to mention the jobs that are created by new, affluent residents who buy homes and settle in. Nor can it be worth the losses in tourism and agriculture. Cal Poly alone is responsible for close to 25% of the economic vitality of San Luis Obispo.

I suggest that, instead, you devote your efforts to building on the viability of a less oil-dependent economy and encourage alternative energy sources.

This (proposed project) is an old and tired game that only benefits the oil business. Aren't we beyond that yet?

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Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Pyburn