



1201 16th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: 202-833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García
President

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Vice President

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John C. Stocks
Executive Director

July 13, 2015

Ms. Debbie Arnold, Chair
Board of Supervisors, San Luis Obispo County
1055 Monterey Street, Room D-170
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Mr. Murray Wilson
Department of Planning and Building, San Luis Obispo County
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Dear Ms. Arnold and Mr. Wilson:

I am writing to urge you to reject the proposed extension of the rail spur to Phillips 66's Santa Maria Refinery, which would bring mile-long trains carrying 2.5 million gallons of crude oil through San Luis Obispo County nearly every day. At least 29 schools are within a mile of the potential "blast zone" and could suffer catastrophic consequences in the event of a train derailment or oil spill.

U.S. Department of Transportation data show that as the number of tank cars carrying crude oil has increased—from 9,500 to more than 490,000 just since 2008—so has the incidence of derailments and spills. In 2013, trains spilled more crude oil than in the previous 38 years combined. Toxic emissions from the diesel fuel burned by the trains further jeopardize the health and well-being of students and educators alike.

Please put student safety first. On behalf of NEA's three million members and the students they serve, I implore you to reject the proposed expansion of the rail spur to the Santa Maria Refinery.

Sincerely,

Lily Eskelsen García
NEA President