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Shelley Brownon - Comment

This is a Comment on the **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** (PHMSA) Proposed Rule: **Hazardous Materials; Amendments**

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Comment

Dear PHMSA Rule-making Division,
I would like to submit a Public Comment regarding the recent PHMSA NPRM 80 FR 3787 (PHMSA-2013-0225). This NPRM is supposed to address the concern of promoting safer transportation practices. I am highly concerned that the PHMSA standards for transport of crude oil by rail are not high enough to ensure public safety. Firstly, we must mandate that crude oil is degasified to prepare it for safe transport at the very least. The idea that simply improving standards of railcars is going to help the problem has been "derailed" by the recent crash in Galena, IL. Better cars didn't fix anything... weren't those the newest and best cars available. The cost of that mess is astronomical. The railroads should be required to have adequate insurance to cover all future accidents, the outcome of which could cost billions. We must ensure that there are more safety inspections of the railroads, and set routes that avoid both highly populated areas and areas with rivers and lakes within a 2 mile radius. The incidents of the past illustrate how devastating the failure to do so has become to nearby people, wildlife, soil, and waterways when these train cars derail. The impact upon our environment... communities, wildlife, waterways, and the lives of future generations, depends upon how we deal with this NOW. If these criteria for regulation cannot be met.... Perhaps, the time has come to have a serious discussion about a ban on transport of oil by rail.
Thank you for considering my comment,
Shelley Brown
Decatur, IL

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