

RESOLUTION  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SANDPOINT

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF LOCAL CITIZENS AND SANDPOINT'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FROM THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF BNSF RAILWAY'S PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITIONAL 2.2 MILES OF RAILROAD TRACK AND ASSOCIATED BRIDGES THROUGH THE CITY OF SANDPOINT AND ACROSS LAKE PEND OREILLE**

WHEREAS: The City of Sandpoint is committed to the protection of its citizens, as well as the natural resources on which the City depends;

WHEREAS: Rail infrastructure in northern Idaho runs adjacent to land resources and Lake Pend Oreille and its aquatic resources, as well as the City's major source of drinking water;

WHEREAS: The City is uniquely situated between mountains and Lake Pend Oreille, where multiple rail lines converge and come into close proximity of the City and the lake;

WHEREAS: Rail transportation through the Sandpoint region includes both ground level and elevated tracks through the City;

WHEREAS: BNSF Railway has proposed the Sandpoint Junction Connector, which would include the construction of an additional 2.2-mile-long mainline track partially within the City of Sandpoint;

WHEREAS: The Sandpoint Junction Connector proposal would include the construction of three new bridges, one across Bridge Street, one across Sand Creek, and one nearly a mile long across Lake Pend Oreille;

WHEREAS: BNSF Railway estimates the Sandpoint Junction Connector proposal would cost at least \$100 million and require at least 3 years of construction;

WHEREAS: The City Council is concerned about the potential impacts on public safety and economic disruption from construction, possible derailment, and increased rail traffic associated with the Sandpoint Junction Connector proposal;

WHEREAS: The 2017 Lake Pend Oreille and Pend Oreille River Geographic Response Plan identified existing equipment, training, evacuation, procedural, and geographic vulnerabilities to our community's ability to respond to a train derailment of crude oil or hazardous materials;

WHEREAS: In 2016, three railroads in Bonner County transported significantly more than 300,000 rail cars or tank cars containing various forms of hazardous materials and crude oil;

WHEREAS: As of 2017, approximately 24-unit trains per week carrying crude oil travel through Sandpoint;

WHEREAS: On June 3, 2016, a train carrying crude oil derailed in Mosier, Oregon, causing a wildfire, spilling 47,000 gallons of crude, and forcing the evacuation of 100 residents;

WHEREAS: On March 15, 2017, a train carrying grain derailed near the Moyie River in Boundary County, causing approximately 5 rail cars to careen off a 100-foot embankment near the Moyie Dam;

WHEREAS: On March 17, 2017, an empty coal train derailed in Kootenai, Idaho, causing approximately 50 empty coal cars and one locomotive to derail;

WHEREAS: On May 1, 2017, a train carrying corn derailed near Cocolalla Lake in Bonner County, causing 25 rail cars to come off the tracks, spilling grain, and partially blocking U.S. Highway 95;

WHEREAS: On August 13, 2017, a train carrying coal derailed near Noxon, Montana, causing 30 rail cars to spill coal along on in the Clark Fork River;

WHEREAS: On September 16, 2017, coal left unaddressed along the Clark Fork River near Noxon, Montana from the August 13, 2017 train derailment began to combust and smoke, requiring emergency responders to extinguish the heat and prevent a potential wildfire;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council strongly requests the U.S. Coast Guard require BNSF Railway produce an Environmental Impact Statement, analyzing the full scope of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with BNSF's Sandpoint Junction Connector proposal and in connection with other associated rail expansion proposals in north Idaho.

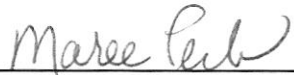
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council strongly requests the Surface Transportation Board to exercise its jurisdiction to ensure the cost of mitigating the impacts of trains carrying hazardous materials, crude oil, and coal do not fall on the local communities, other rail users and taxpayers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council strongly requests the Federal Rail Administration to share its subject matter expertise on the relationship between rail safety and public/environmental safety with the U.S. Coast Guard, as the U.S. Coast Guard conducts its review of BNSF's Sandpoint Junction Connector proposal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council hereby adopts this Resolution.

  
Shelby Rogstad, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Maree Peck, City Clerk

City Council Members:

			YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
1.	Eddy	Motion	X			
2.	Aitken		X			
3.	Williamson				X	
4.	Ruehle	Second	X			
5.	Aispuro		X			
6.	Darling					X