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William D. Euille
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May 31, 2013

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
United States Senate
459A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Norfolk Southern's Proposed Expansion of Ethanol Transloading Facility in Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Senator ~~Warner~~: Mark

Enclosed please find a recent Alexandria Council resolution opposing the Norfolk Southern's proposed expansion of the ethanol transloading facility located in Alexandria. As you know, our City has long standing serious concerns about the operations at this facility which is located in the vicinity of a densely populated residential neighborhood. This proposed expansion would have the potential to more than double the permitted throughput and associated air emissions. These concerns are also rooted in the lack of sensitivity shown by Norfolk Southern toward the well-being of our neighboring communities in not notifying the City of their ethanol transloading plans. In fact, the City only learned about this proposed expansion through a notification from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) that it has prepared a draft air quality permit for this expanded operation in response to a permit application from this company.

The City has formally requested that VDEQ hold an information meeting and a subsequent public hearing on this draft permit to ensure that the citizens understand the proposed changes and have adequate time to provide informed and meaningful input and comments. The City also requested that the public comment period be as long as possible but not less than 60 days.

Please let me know if you need further information. On behalf of all Alexandrians, in advance I would like to express our gratitude for your assistance in this just cause.

Sincerely,

William D. Euille
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Members of City Council
Rashad M. Young, City Manager
James L. Banks, Jr., City Attorney
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

RESOLUTION NO. 2559

WHEREAS, Norfolk Southern Corporation has established an ethanol transloading operation at its intermodal facility in Alexandria's West End; and

WHEREAS, Norfolk Southern Corporation made a unilateral and ill-advised decision to locate such a facility near the homes of thousands of City residents, a public elementary school, the Capital beltway which is a main north-south interstate highway serving the East Coast, and the WMATA Metro Rail Blue Line; and

WHEREAS, a facility for the transport, storage and handling of multiple railcars, each with a capacity of 30,000 gallons of highly flammable liquid, presents an unacceptable threat to public safety, vital infrastructure, and private property; and

WHEREAS, Norfolk Southern has proposed plans to enable them to further expand the throughput at their Alexandria facility; and

WHEREAS, Norfolk Southern appears to have been planning this increase in offloading for some time, having applied for an air pollution control permit to VDEQ at the beginning of 2013, yet failed to inform the City and its residents about their planned expansion; and

WHEREAS, the proposed increase in throughput necessitates an air pollution control permit from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ); and

WHEREAS, potential impacts of such increase in throughput include further threats to public safety, vital infrastructure, private property and air quality; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City opposes issuance of the air permit that would enable the expansion of throughput at the facility and would result in increased air emissions, noise pollutions and quality of life impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is directed to develop comments in opposition to the Permit and submit those to VDEQ as part of the public comment period and otherwise work with VDEQ staff to allow as much time as possible for public outreach and comment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager and the City Attorney are directed to explore if there are any other means to discuss and prevent this facility expansion, including arranging for a meeting with the Norfolk Southern President/or his designee as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be transmitted to the City's federal and state legislative delegations and their assistance where feasible be sought to prevent this facility expansion.

Adopted: May 14, 2013

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk