

# Sarah Cornett

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Thank you for considering public comments and for your presentation. My name is Sarah Cornett here representing Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. Our organization represents nearly one thousand medical professionals and health advocates and works to protect human health from our greatest challenges, including climate change and our reliance on harmful fossil fuels.

As a member of the Stand Up to Oil coalition, WPSR agrees with our partners and many previous commenters that this rule does not establish the protections we need from tar-sands oil. We are concerned that tar-sands oil is already moving through Washington in a variety of ways which each carry its own particular risk of spill, exposure, and other accidents. Whether transported via pipeline, train, or vessel, tar-sands crude oil particularly is concerning to us from a health perspective because of its properties and because it contains a high volume of chemical toxicants.

These chemicals include benzene and benzopyrene. These are both carcinogens with no level of safe exposure. Other chemicals found in crude oil including toluene, xylene, ethylbenzene -- These can be inhaled and enter the body through the skin in the event of a spill. A report summarizing the long-term effects of cleanup workers -- on cleanup workers, excuse me -- and community residents who are exposed to these chemicals in an oil spill a few years ago found exposure was linked to respiratory ailments, neurological disorders, and side effects that were later associated with birth defects in harmed or pregnant mothers. The elderly and children are also particularly vulnerable.

With the gravity of these risks, it's clear that we must do all we can do ensure that Washington communities are as protected as possible. Ecology has received a clear mandate from the legislature to use this rule update as an opportunity to improve our protections for nonfloating oils, and again, we believe that this rule's scope is too narrow. It fails to establish the response requirements we need for tar-sands oil.

Failing to do so renders Washington waters and communities vulnerable to serious health impacts of an accident or a spill. Thank you very much.