

Sharon Burke

I am writing to protest the proposed \$300M insurance requirement for Class 1 facilities. The estimated cost to clean up a major oil spill in our state is \$10B. Therefore, \$300M is not nearly enough coverage. Ideally, it should be \$10B in coverage, but you should at least require \$1B as a start. Although the oil industry may claim financial hardship to pay for that level of coverage, it simply is not true. They spend billions of dollars to spread misinformation on the reality and causes of global warming and to bankroll politicians who will assist them in these endeavors. They also have posted record profits, so yes, they can afford to pay for higher premiums, no matter what their highly paid lobbyists may say. Oil companies will protest a higher coverage amount nonetheless because they simply do not want to put even a small dent in those record profits. To protect the bottom line is deeply ingrained in their nature, even when their activities pose a grave danger to the general public. Your mandate on the other hand is to protect our environment, not to assist in the profit-making ability of corporations. History shows that it is only a matter of time before we experience a major oil spill in our state. The Trans Mountain pipeline, which should have never been approved, is a likely candidate and since tar sands oil is the hardest kind of oil spill to clean up, you should demand the highest amount of coverage from them. We have subsidized the oil industry since their inception with lax tax policies, but now is the time to make sure that we stop giving them a license to pollute and contaminate our precious environment. If they do pollute or harm anywhere in Washington, they must pay. Therefore, they need adequate insurance coverage so that they cannot hide behind the strategy of filing for bankruptcy to avoid making restitution. Please protect the citizens of Washington and our wildlife, not oil corporations. Thank you.