

RESOLUTION NO. 72

REQUESTING THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER TO REVIEW AND REPORT FINDINGS RELATED TO THE CRUDE OIL CONSTRUCTION SITE IN THE SOUTH END OF ALBANY

Introduced: 2/10/14

By Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Bullock, Clenahan, Mss. Kinsch Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Corcoran, Cotrofeld, Dawson, Ethier, Feeney, Higgins, Joyce, Mackey, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, Morse, Nichols, O'Brien, Rahm, Simpson, Domalewicz and Jacobson:

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature has a long and distinguished history of protecting the well-being of Albany County residents as well as shielding the environment from harm, and

WHEREAS, Rail cars transporting crude oil cross 1,000 miles of New York State's freight rail network and travel through communities to Albany's South End, where it is then transported to refineries, and

WHEREAS, Much of the increase in the volume of transported crude oil is due to increased production from the Bakken formation in North Dakota, Montana, and Canada, which, due to lack of pipeline capacity, must be transported by rail; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the crude oil delivered to the South End rail yard is not degasified before it arrives and a new facility located outside the Port of Albany is proposed to be constructed that will heat vast amounts of crude oil allowing it to flow easier when filling barges, and

WHEREAS, There may be many potential health and environmental risks that people face regarding the crude oil passing through their communities and particularly people in the South End of Albany where it is proposed to be processed at the new facility, and

WHEREAS, The increased volume and the heating process need to be evaluated to determine the risks to the residents and/or the potential adverse effect on the environment, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that the Commissioner of the Department of Health is requested to analyze and report findings related to the transportation of the aforementioned rail cars and the proposed crude oil processing site to be located in the South End of Albany rail yard, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 2/10/14