



VILLAGE OF LOMBARD

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November 22, 2013

Village President
Keith T. Giagnorio

Village Clerk
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Acting Village Manager
Timothy Sexton

"Our shared vision for Lombard is a community of excellence exemplified by its government working together with residents and businesses to create a distinctive sense of spirit and an outstanding quality of life."

"The Mission of the Village of Lombard is to provide superior and responsive governmental services to the people of Lombard."

Mr. Ben Supko
Standards and Rulemaking Division
Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC, 20590

RE: DOCKET NO. PHMSA-2012-0082 (HM-251)

Dear Mr. Supko,

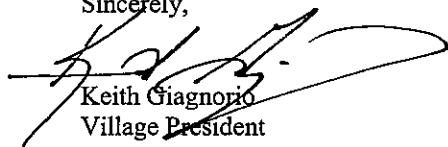
I am writing to request that you include this letter in the comments for the above referenced docket. As the Village President of Lombard, a community whose downtown straddles the Union Pacific West Line, I believe it is vital that federal regulators act aggressively to rectify the known defects in the DOT-111 tank cars that are used to transport flammable hazmat like crude oil and ethanol. As a town of approximately 43,000 residents with a freight rail line running through our downtown area, it is vital that our residents know that they are afforded the highest degree of protection in the transport of these highly dangerous commodities.

For the past two decades, the rail industry has failed to act to correct the known defects in DOT-111 tank cars, and waited until 2011 to seek government approval to upgrade safety standards for newly manufactured DOT-111 tank cars. The National Transportation Safety Board has determined that a retrofit of existing tank cars is necessary because co-mingling existing unsafe DOT-111 tank cars with newly manufactured ones does nothing to improve the safety in an accident. As the federal regulator with the power to correct this situation, it is up to the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to act responsibly and quickly to mandate a retrofit of existing DOT-111 tank cars to improve the safety of the rail system nationwide.

The Village of Lombard supports the petition for rulemaking submitted to PHMSA on April 3, 2012 by Barrington, Illinois and the Illinois TRAC Coalition. That petition seeks changes are needed in federal regulations to better protect public safety relative to DOT-111 tank car safety and train consist dissemination.

On behalf of the Village of Lombard, I thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter that affects the life, safety and vitality of railroad communities. Lombard's desire, much like yours, is to reduce the risk of catastrophic rail accidents involving DOT-111 tank cars.

Sincerely,



Keith Giagnorio
Village President

KG/csg

cc: Village Board of Trustees