



City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Hon. Lisa Raitt
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Raitt,

We, the undersigned, are the Mayor and City Councillors who represent residents in the City of Toronto whose neighbourhoods border the CP rail line through the heart of our city.

The recent rail accidents in Northern Ontario demonstrate the risks associated with derailments. We remain concerned about the transportation of dangerous goods by rail through our city.

That's why we are working together, along with community safety groups and residents' associations from across the city, to advocate for rail safety for our communities and for improved transparency and accountability.

Toronto residents are concerned about the significant increase of trains carrying crude oil over the past five years, from 500 carloads in 2009 to an estimated 140,000 in 2013. A significant number of these potentially volatile freight trains are using the Canadian Pacific rail line that runs through some of Toronto's densest neighbourhoods from the Junction along Dupont Street, right across Midtown, and east through Scarborough.

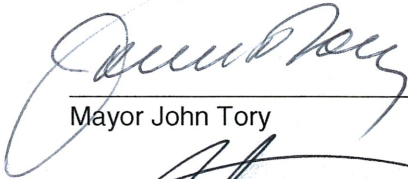
While we appreciate the Canadian federal government's efforts to improve safety and increase collaboration between communities and the rail industry, there are still more measures needed to help ensure the safety of our residents, including:

- Promoting better communication between the rail industry and local communities;
- Reviewing the new safety standards, given the recent derailments and crude oil spills that occurred in Northern Ontario, and despite those tank cars having conformed to the recently-upgraded safety standards for DOT-111 tank cars;
- Accelerating the removal of all DOT-111 tank cars that do not meet the new safety standards;
- Examining the economic, environmental and safety impacts of regulations to reduce the speed of rail through urban areas, and;

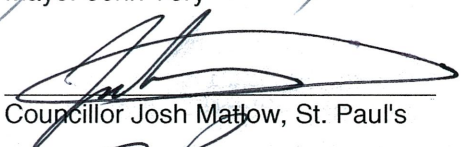
- Examining alternative routes for transporting dangerous goods that currently pass through areas with high population densities

While we appreciate steps taken by the government to improve rail safety, we request that the Government of Canada take further action to protect Toronto's residents.

Sincerely,



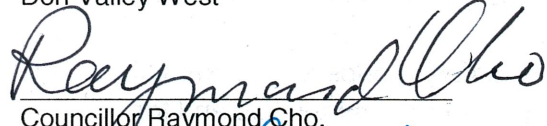
Mayor John Tory



Councillor Josh Matlow, St. Paul's




Councillor Jon Burnside,
Don Valley West



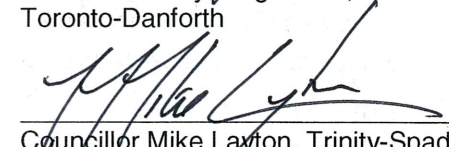
Councillor Raymond Cho,
Scarborough-Rouge River



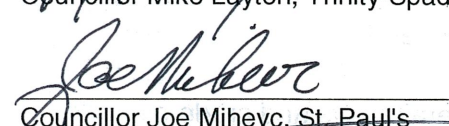
Councillor Justin Di Ciano,
Etobicoke-Lakeshore



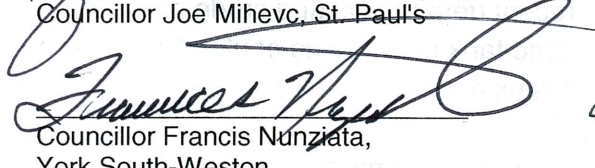
Councillor Mary Fragedakis,
Toronto-Danforth



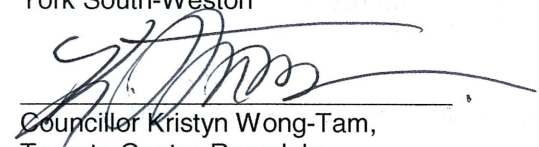
Councillor Mike Layton, Trinity-Spadina



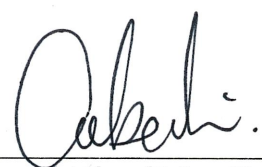
Councillor Joe Mihevc, St. Paul's



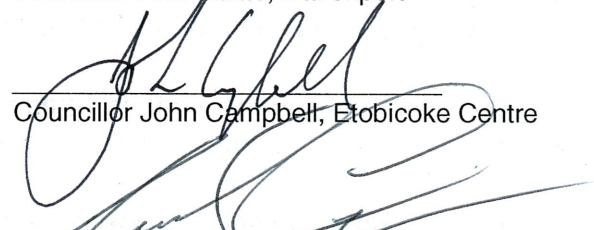
Councillor Francis Nunziata,
York South-Weston



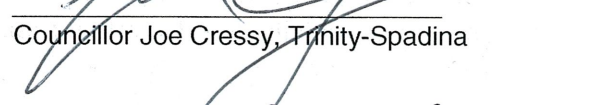
Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam,
Toronto Centre-Rosedale



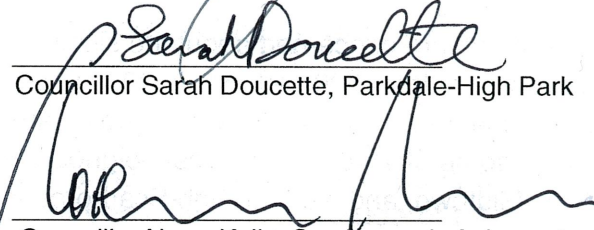
Councillor Ana Bailao, Davenport



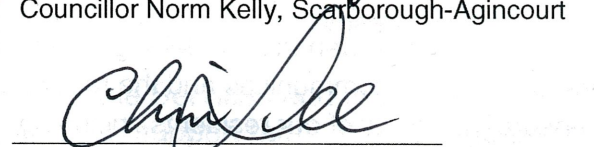
Councillor John Campbell, Etobicoke Centre



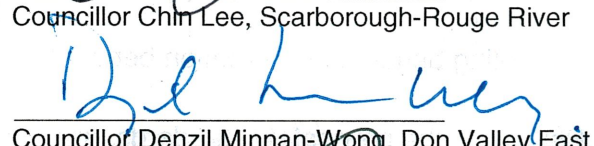
Councillor Joe Cressy, Trinity-Spadina



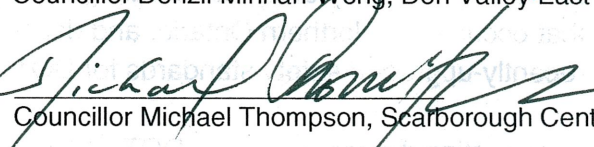
Councillor Sarah Doucette, Parkdale-High Park



Councillor Norm Kelly, Scarborough-Agincourt



Councillor Chin Lee, Scarborough-Rouge River



Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, Don Valley East



Councillor Michael Thompson, Scarborough Centre