

# STOP CHEMICAL DISASTERS!

## Respect Our Right to Know

When 47 people were killed in a massive crude oil fire in Quebec in 2013, **it was a wake-up call for all of us in New Jersey.** A train went off the rails while carrying super-flammable Bakken crude oil from North Dakota.



In the past five years, global oil companies started shipping 40 times more of this explosive chemical through U.S. communities. **Thousands of trains, each carrying millions of gallons of crude oil, now pass through N.J. towns in at least 11 counties every week.**

Our communities want a faster transition to cleaner energy sources and greater energy efficiency to prevent more climate change disasters like Hurricane Sandy. Instead, giant oil companies are putting us all at risk so they can make even more billions in profit.

**We call on Governor Christie and other public officials to take at least four immediate steps to protect our lives, jobs, health, schools, and businesses:**

- 1. The right to know about rail car hazards.** The state knows what Bakken crude oil shipments are passing through our communities. *The governor should make that information available.*
- 2. The right to know the real names of chemicals.** N.J. law requires that all chemicals in factories, hospitals, schools, and other workplaces be labeled with their real names, not just brand names. Christie's appointees are trying to weaken that requirement. *The governor should enforce our right to know what chemical hazards we may face.*
- 3. The right to know about safer alternatives.** At least 90 facilities in 19 of N.J.'s 21 counties use large quantities of highly hazardous chemicals that threaten millions of people in case of a toxic release or deliberate attack. These facilities are required by state law to consider using safer chemicals or processes. If they claim alternatives are not feasible, they must file reports with the state explaining why not. *The governor should make those reports publicly available.*
- 4. The right to know about emergency response plans.** Every municipality and county is required to have an emergency response plan in case of a chemical disaster. *The governor should ensure that updated plans are available to the public, so we can learn about hazards that could be prevented and whether corporations and public officials are doing everything possible to protect us.*

**Urge Governor Christie, other public officials, and corporate executives to respect our right to know.**

Contact the N.J. Work Environment Council at [www.njwec.org](http://www.njwec.org) or (609) 882-6100.