



Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee
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January 27, 2013

Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Honorable Cambridge City Councilors:

In August 2012, we sent you an update as to the status of a proposal put forth by Global Companies LLC to transport large volumes of ethanol through communities in Massachusetts, including your city/town, to the company's facilities in Revere. We write to provide you with yet another update and to request your action and support to stop this egregious plan.

The proposal:

As you may remember, Global Oil located in Revere, MA, proposes to bring freight trains carrying ethanol to its facility along the Chelsea River. Ethanol is a volatile, flammable, colorless liquid that burns at extremely high temperatures. A 2011 study commissioned by the state Department of Environmental Protection found ethanol is now the largest volume of hazardous material being transported by rail. Alcohol-resistant foam is necessary to extinguish ethanol fires along with specially trained fire-fighters.

Global is proposing to bring 60-120-car trains (each train car holds 30,000 gallons of ethanol), into its facility two to three times per week, every week all year long. This could result in 561.6 million gallons of ethanol traveling on freight trains each year. There are four possible routes these trains could travel on (Fitchburg line, Lowell line, Haverhill line and Grand Junction), though it is believed that the line most used will be the Fitchburg line through Fitchburg, Leominster, Ayer, Littleton, Acton, Concord, Lincoln, Waltham, Belmont, Cambridge, Somerville, Everett, Boston and Chelsea to their final destination in Revere.

What is happening presently?

We successfully achieved getting the State Legislature to require that a public safety study be conducted by the Department of Transportation (DOT) on the safety of ethanol transport through the communities of Cambridge, Boston, Everett, Chelsea and Revere. While the Legislature did not implicitly request that every city/town in

Massachusetts be included in the impact study, it also did not say the study should ONLY focus on the above-named cities and towns. However, the DOT is focusing this study on these communities and Somerville. We believe you should have an opportunity to have your community weigh in with your concerns and how these trains can negatively impact your city/town.

What can you do?

1. **Contact Secretary Davey at the DOT (617)248-2880 and let him know that you want your community's concerns included in the study.**
2. Call your State and Federal legislators and request their action to STOP THE TRAINS.
3. Call the Governor at (617)725-4005 and tell him your community opposes Global's ethanol trains.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact either of us. We can be reached at Jash@chelseama.gov or (617)466-4100 or RoseannB@chelseacollab.org or (617)889-6080x111, respectively.

Very Truly Yours,



Jay Ash
Chelsea City Manager



Roseann Bongiovanni
Director, Chelsea Green Space and
Former Chelsea City Councilor