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## News Release

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### **DRC Members to hold Demonstration in Casselton on Friday**

Casselton, ND -- Dakota Resource Council (DRC) members will lead a demonstration in Casselton Friday afternoon to spotlight major safety concerns about highly volatile Bakken crude on rail cars. North Dakota does not make sure oil put on railroad tank cars is made safe, unlike other oil-producing states such as Texas.

Members of DRC, a North Dakota community-based group, plan to attend a hearing regarding oil conditioning and transportation safety on Tuesday September 23 at the Department of Mineral Resources in Bismarck. They will urge North Dakota regulators and elected officials to do what is necessary to require oil producers to render Bakken crude stable prior to loading it onto trains. Currently, state regulators allow North Dakota crude to contain many volatile elements that make it prone to exploding in the case of train derailments.

“Casselton is where an explosive derailment occurred this past December, so it is a significant example of why we must ask regulators and elected officials to do what is necessary to prevent another catastrophe like the Casselton train explosion.” said DRC spokesperson Lynn Wolff of Fargo.

“North Dakota regulators and elected officials should finally act to make our oil safer for folks in North Dakota and across the country. We want people in North Dakota to be aware of the meeting on Tuesday, and how important it is for regulators to ensure that the volatile elements are stripped from Bakken crude to make it as safe as possible,” added Wolff.

“During the seven or eight years of the Bakken oil boom, North Dakota officials have allowed oil development at a frenetic and chaotic pace, regardless of safety issues or damage to other people’s livelihoods. In the case of rail shipments, we’ve seen explosions of Bakken crude in Alabama, Virginia and Quebec as well as Casselton. In Quebec, 47 people lost their lives.” Wolf said, “It’s time for us to insist that our state officials get serious about the safety of North Dakotans and others in the US and Canada.”

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*Founded in 1978, Dakota Resource Council is a statewide organization bringing together farmers, ranchers, small business owners, workers and other North Dakotans to address issues that affect their lives and livelihoods.*