



A tanker car carries about 30,000 gallons (which, at 42 gallons per barrel is about 700 barrels). A train of 100 cars carries about 3 million gallons (70,000 barrels) and takes over three days to travel from Alberta to the Gulf Coast. The Keystone will carry about 35 million gallons per day (830,000 barrels). This puts pressure on rail transport to get bigger and bigger, and to include more cars per train, the very reason that crude oil train wrecks have dramatically increased lately.

The Congressional Research Service estimates that transporting crude oil by pipeline is cheaper than rail, about \$5 per barrel

versus \$10 to \$15 per barrel. But rail is more flexible and has 140,000 miles of track in the United States, compared with 57,000 miles of crude oil pipelines. Building rail terminals to handle loading and unloading is a lot cheaper, and less of a hassle, than building and permitting pipelines.

It isn't acceptable to just say we shouldn't be moving oil, because we will for the rest of this century, no matter what happens. So, keeping in mind the difference between death and damage to humans and damage to the environment, which would you choose? ☒



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