

Why Any Train Means Coal Trains

- To justify an investment in North Coast rail and make it financially feasible, “the rail line will need to generate large volumes of cargo.”¹
- Coal is by far the most common commodity shipped by rail to US coastal areas - over 3 times more (by weight) than the next leading product.²
- Coal is by far the most common bulk commodity shipped by rail in the US - almost twice as many carloads as the next leading commodity.
- Coal accounts for 25% of US originated freight rail tonnage, “more than any other commodity.”
- Local and state governments have no power to regulate what materials are carried by freight trains.

Bottom Line

The only possible way to make the North Coast rail line financially viable is through very high-volume freight shipments. Coal is the only commodity that meets that requirement. The rail line could carry other commodities as well, but it would definitely carry coal.

¹ BST Associates. 2013. Humboldt Bay Rail Concept Level Construction Cost and Revenue Analysis

² BST Associates. 2013. Humboldt Bay Rail Concept Level Construction Cost and Revenue Analysis