

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2151

Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis and Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

For the record My name is Travis Nelson, and I am the State Representative for House District 44 - North and Northeast Portland. I am here today to express strong support for HB 2151. This bill takes a critical step in ensuring that Oregon is better prepared for a major seismic event by expanding the scope of the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund use.

It is no secret that Oregon's Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub, which supplies over 90% of the state's liquid fuel, sits on an active seismic zone. When the eventual earthquake strikes, the consequences will be catastrophic. HB 2151 helps mitigate and prepare for these risks by allowing resources in the fund to support critical efforts such as: wildfire risk mitigation from fuel spills, earthquake response, and evacuation planning. Additionally, this bill supports the implementation of earthquake early detection systems, which can significantly improve public safety.

Originally, the use of the mitigation fund was designed to focus on retrofitting buildings. With this bill, they can also be used to help individuals and communities develop real, actionable plans to withstand a seismic event. This is not about creating new funding sources. It's about using what we will already have more effectively to strengthen disaster preparedness for communities most vulnerable in the seismic zone.

This is a proactive, common-sense approach to making Oregon safer. And when the day comes, and it will, it will not wait for us to be ready. The ground will shake, and in that moment, we will either stand prepared or face the cost of inaction. We cannot wait. The time is now. I urge your support for HB 2151.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis Nelson".

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland