

Submitter: Diane Meisenhelter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2151

Although I can't be present today, as a volunteer Neighborhood Emergency Team first responder in inner NE Portland I wanted to register my support for both HB 2151 and HB 2152. For a long time, I have been scared out of my wits by the risks posed by the CEI HUB. The CEI HUB holds 90% of the states liquid fuels in over 400 older active use tanks, most built before seismic standards came into being. This site is between the fire risk area of Forest Park and the Willamette River which then feeds into the Columbia River downstream. The site is also on unstable fill and liquefaction soils within two major earthquake zones. A study by Multnomah County found that in the case of a number 9 earthquake, the CEI HUB disaster would be on the order of magnitude of Fukushima and Deep Water Horizon combined. Most of our City's emergency first responders would be called to deal with that disaster and they have testified that they are utterly unprepared to handle something of that scale. Our neighborhood disaster teams, which are already underresourced, could be left pretty much on our own for weeks.

It is critical that seismic risk mitigation funds can be awarded to the state and distributed to not only deal with post-disaster response, but even more importantly, pre-disaster preparations and mitigation as laid out in HB 2151. Furthermore, as proposed in HB 2152, we need to develop and implement planning for a diversity of fueling stations with disaster reserves throughout the state instead of locating all of the states liquid fuels in one location. We will need to have access to these reserves and the CEI HUB is likely to be a treacherous mess in a serious earthquake (or even major fire or flood situations) and should not be counted on to provide disaster fuel reserves. Over the long-run we need to begin an energy storage transition plan (proposed HB3450) and develop risk bond studies (proposed HB 2949) to better protect our communities. This situation is a ticking timebomb waiting to happen and the quicker we can begin to put better policies in place, the more both paid and volunteer disaster responders can rest easier at night. Plus, thousands (or perhaps tens of thousands) of residents would be affected by such a disaster if we have not taken the necessary precautions in time. Thanks for your time and consideration and please support HB 2151 and HB 2152 today.