

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

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

I support all 4 of the suite of CEI hub bills: HB 3450, HB 2949, HB 2151, and HB 2152. I'm a resident of NW Portland who could be directly impacted by a CEI hub disaster, a member of the Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter, and a human being who cares and can live because of the relative health of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we call home. Thank you to Chair Tran and all the others who worked so hard on these bills.

As we as a society transition off polluting combustion fuels to cleaner more efficient electrification, we need the holistic transition plan described in HB 3450.

While there are dangerous fuels stored at the hub, we need the companies storing them to have insurance in a disaster—a study for risk bonds is the main intent of HB 2949, and included in HB 3450.

We need to be prepared and ready to take action to save lives and livelihoods in the event of a disaster and HB 2151 would newly allow for money in the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund (that has not been earmarked for other specific purposes) to be used for planning and preparation to mitigate harm from liquid fuel spills and fires that are the result of an earthquake.

HB2152 intends to ensure that diverse geographical regions of Oregon have access to needed fuels in the event of a disaster that cuts regions off from the current reserves at the CEI hub. I appreciate that the bill is written with thoughtful attention to environmental justice and a Just Transition.

-- With this in mind, please consider that we need not only the reliance on fossil fuels to decline, but the reliance on All liquid fuels to decline both for emergency safety and for efficiency and economic reasons.

-- The Department of Energy's Oregon Energy Strategy Modeling Presentation shows that the least cost scenario for Oregon, including for trucking, requires electrification, and biofuels are significantly more expensive and less efficient. So I personally second the comment of the Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter to amend section 1(1)(3)(b) of HB2152 to read:
“(b) The potential for reliance on polluting combustion fuels to decline and the impact on the action plan resulting from that decline.”

Thank you for your work on these important bills,
Helena Birecki
Portland, OR