



February 3, 2022

Senator Kate Lieber
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE, S-417
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1567 – Support to conduct and implement seismic risk assessments for bulk oil and liquid fuel terminals

Dear Chair Lieber and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

Drinking water and wastewater utilities and districts from around Oregon support the passage of SB 1567 which will require seismic risk assessments and implementation for bulk oil and liquid fuel terminals primarily located in the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub, a six-mile-long facility on the Willamette River that houses 90% of the state's fuel supply.

The water and wastewater sectors are supportive of this bill because of our critical interdependency with the fuel sector to protect public health and provide essential services to our communities. In addition, we are deeply concerned about the environmental damage that would be unleashed by the failure of these oil and fuel terminals including impacts to public health and our waterways.

As noted in the recommendations of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission in their 2019 [CEI Hub Mitigation Strategies Report](#), the CEI Hub is a major threat to the safety, environment, and recovery of our state after a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake. **Owners of privately-owned liquid fuel tanks at the Hub need to be compelled to evaluate and seismically strengthen their infrastructure.**

Water and wastewater utilities continually prepare for disasters to ensure the public has a reliable and safe water supply. They have made significant ratepayer funded investments in

implementing recommendations from the Oregon Resilience Plan to evaluate and strengthen infrastructure. Water utilities also comply with state rules and the America's Water Infrastructure Act by conducting risk assessments and preparing emergency response plans. Owners of bulk oil and fuel terminals in the CEI Hub should be doing their part to prepare for disasters by conducting similar risk assessments and implementing resilience plans. We learned from last year's chlorine shortage the potentially catastrophic impacts that can result from the disruption of a vulnerable supply chain.

Following a major earthquake, water providers around the state will need fuel to repair and restore vital drinking water and wastewater systems. The resiliency of our primary fuel supply is critical to the recovery of our state, our public health, and our viability as a community.

The Regional Water Providers Consortium, Oregon Association of Water Utilities, Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies, Oregon Water Utility Council, and the Oregon Water/Wastewater Response Network all urge you to pass SB 1567 to secure a safe and effective energy supply, protect human health and safety, and prevent catastrophic damage to our environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted respectfully by members of the:

Regional Water Providers Consortium
Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
Oregon Water Utility Council – A committee of the PNW American Water Works Association
Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN)