



Senator Kate Lieber, Chair Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Oregon Legislature

900 Court Street, NE

Salem, OR 97301

Date: 2/6/2022

RE: Support for SB 1567 and -1 Amendments

Dear Chair Lieber and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

On behalf of Beyond Toxics and the thousands of Oregonians who support our work across the state, I'm writing to express strong support for SB 1567 and the proposed -1 amendments. Beyond Toxics provides leadership to build a community-driven environmental justice movement for a thriving and just Oregon. We promote environmental, racial and social justice to assure informed public participation to advance environmental health policies.

While public health and environmental justice are not expressly mentioned in this bill, any natural disaster that disrupts or destroys critical energy hubs, including major earthquakes, will take the heaviest toll on low-income and communities of color. These frontline communities, primarily Black, Latinx, Indigenous, immigrant and working class residents, often lack adequate emergency preparedness training, rapid activation from first responders, and inadequate access to health care and hospital facilities. This bill will help these Oregonians, and all communities, prepare for and survive emergencies such as a major earthquake during which fossil fuels storage facilities may ignite, explode, leak, spread and otherwise harm and contaminate nearby communities and the environment.

In addition to supporting safety and resilience in frontline communities, SB 1567-1 can also help provide for mitigation actions for emergency fuels planning, seismic stability, and stable fuel capacity for our communities. We urge the members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment to support the passage of SB 1567 with the -1 amendments.

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

Beyond Toxics

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