

Submitter: Michael Olsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1567

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Findley, and members of the committee,
My name is Michael Olsen and I am writing testimony in support of the proposed SB-1567. By way of background, I have received a BS and MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Utah and a PhD in Structural Engineering from the University of California, San Diego. In my profession, I am a Professor at Oregon State University where i serve as the Director of the Cascadia Lifelines Program, which conducts research that will allow Oregon's lifeline providers to implement value- and cost-informed decisions to mitigate damage to Pacific Northwest infrastructure as the result of Cascadia subduction zone earthquakes. I am also the Technical Director of the National Science Foundation sponsored Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure RAPID Facility at the University of Washington. I have also participated on several reconnaissance teams following major earthquake events worldwide evaluating the performance of lifeline facilities and implementation of recovery efforts. My testimony is provided as a concerned citizen of Oregon and is not in representation of Oregon State University, the Cascadia Lifelines Program, National Science Foundation, or RAPID Facility at the University of Washington.

As you are well aware, the Cascadia Subduction Zone presents major seismic vulnerability to the residents of Oregon. Our critical energy infrastructure hub is particularly vulnerable. Much of this infrastructure sits upon alluvial soils that are highly susceptible to liquefaction and lateral spreading. Loss of these facilities from shaking and liquefaction will significantly hinder Oregon's ability to recover from CSZ events, including safety risks and adverse economic impacts. These issues and concerns are thoroughly documented in the Oregon Resilience Plan. This proposed bill is an important step forward to accomplishing the goals of the Oregon Resilience Plan. Performing a seismic vulnerability assessment and addressing those issues are small costs compared to the loss of the infrastructure and the associated downstream impacts. The benefits far exceed any costs. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of Oregonians.