

Deborah Kafoury Multnomah County Chair

February 7, 2022

Senator Kate Lieber, Chair
Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Multnomah County Support for SB 1567

Dear Chair Liber, Vice Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee:

Multnomah County urges your support of Senate Bill 1567. This bill will finally set in motion a process for protecting Multnomah County residents, the ecosystems of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, and indeed the entire state, from a catastrophic oil spill at the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub in Northwest Portland that will occur when a major earthquake strikes.

In a report released today by Multnomah County and the City of Portland, which has been entered into the committee record by Senator Dembrow, we document in detail the vast scope of risk that CEI Hub facilities pose in the wake of a magnitude 8 or 9 earthquake. This is the kind of event that we know eventually *will* happen in the Pacific Northwest with the inevitable Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

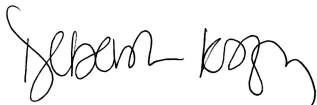
The estimated releases of oil, diesel, gas, jet fuel and other petroleum products from the hub would rival the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. But unlike that disaster, as devastating as it was, the CEI spill will happen in a matter of minutes, in the immediate aftermath of a disastrous earthquake, in the heart of a major American city. The damage from such a catastrophe cannot be quantified in total, but to the extent we can quantify damages, the financial costs range into the billions.

The good news is that we have the information and a shared sense of urgency to take action. It is also my belief that we have the moral and fiscal responsibility to act, not just because the cost of

inaction is so high, but because lives and our ecosystem would depend on addressing these risks. Now is our moment to work together and pass SB 1567, which will fill gaps in the regulatory system that oversees these facilities, require the development of seismic resilience plans for each facility, and develop vital fuel resilience plans for the state.

We don't know when the next earthquake will strike, but we know with certainty that it will. If we fail to address this ticking time bomb on the Willamette River, we will not have the excuse of ignorance. The risks and the stakes are clearer than ever: We can, and we must, act with urgency, collaboration and strategy. I urge you to pass SB 1567 and set our state on a more resilient path.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Kafoury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Chair