



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of SB 1567

February 7, 2022

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Robinson and members of the committee,

My name is Khanh Pham, State Representative for House District 46. I am proud to support SB 1567, this important bill that provides more oversight for dangerous storage of fossil fuels along the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub (CEI).

The CEI Hub has survived approximately 100 years without a major spill or explosion, but the fact is that the Hub is a known disaster waiting to happen, and should be an urgent crisis our legislature addresses. More than 90% of all liquid fuel in Oregon is stored at facilities in this area, posing a tremendous oil spill and safety risk.

Until Oregon has successfully transitioned away from its current dependence on fossil fuels, facilities like those in the CEI Hub, Eugene, and the coast, pose a major risk to human and environmental safety and statewide disaster resilience. Explosions and spills are already regular occurrences in fuel terminals, and this single site so close to the Willamette River has over 500 tanks, combining their hazards, risks, and unstable soil.

The devastation that will come from this fossil fuel risk hits hardest for North and Northeast Portland, and all the local communities that are forced to face higher health risks living next to these oil terminals. We need to protect human health and downriver communities, tribal communities and cultural resources along the Willamette River, Columbia River downstream to the coast.

We cannot understate the risks and likelihood of a worst case scenario. The fossil fuels industry is underprepared because there isn't a plan that covers the hundreds of tanks along the 6 mile stretch of the CEI Hub. Local and state level stakeholders must work together to mitigate the seismic risk and plan for this future. These plans must consider impacts to frontline communities and remain consistent with the state's commitment to environmental justice.

SB 1567 is the first step in a multi-year plan to deal with this risk, and I look forward to working on this important issue in the sessions to come. I urge your aye vote.