

Submitter: Dennis McDonald

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB4044

I have recently made Portland my permanent home, and have become aware of the great risk of a toxic release of petrochemicals from storage areas in the Portland area when an earthquake occurs in the Cascadia subduction zone. The recent report, "Risk of Earthquake-Induced Hazardous Materials Releases in Multnomah County, Oregon: Two Scenarios Examined," from the PSU Institute for Sustainable Solutions, shows that the release of toxic gasses "could result in more than 17,000 injuries and 2,500 deaths." I agree with Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners that "The average person in their house doesn't have the ability to protect themselves from risks like these," and that action by local and state governments is required to provide the protections from such a catastrophe. HB 4044 would enable the DEQ to conduct the necessary study of the issues, and make recommendations for the kind of action the state can take to protect our citizens from this looming danger. I strongly support this legislation, and urge you to do so also.

Thank you for your attention.