

HB 2949 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Department of Environmental Quality to contract with a third party to study and assess financial assurance requirements for owners or operators of bulk oils and liquid fuels terminals as defined in ORS 468B.510. Requires the department to submit a report to the Legislature by September 15, 2026. Repeals on January 2, 2027.

Fiscal impact: TBD

Revenue impact: TBD

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concerns about fuel and oil spills, and impacts on the environment, people and the economy
- Questions about why this should be a state law and the role of counties in the process
- Questions about the cost of the study

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Requires the department to report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency, instead of the environment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes 468B.510 describes “bulk oils or liquid fuels terminal” as industrial facilities located in Columbia, Multnomah or Lane County that are primarily engaged in the transport or bulk storage of oils or liquid fuel products and are characterized by having: marine, pipeline, railroad or vehicular transport access; transloading facilities for transferring shipments of oils or liquid fuel products between transportation modes; and one or more bulk storage tanks with a combined capacity of two million gallons or more.

According to Multnomah County, 90% of all liquid fuel in Oregon is stored at these facilities which are commonly called the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub (CEI Hub). Built before the current understanding of the Cascadia Subduction Zone and potential earthquake risk, the CEI Hub is built on soil that has the potential to liquify in a major earthquake.