

Submitter: Margaret Butler

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3450

Chair Tran and members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans:

My name is Margaret Butler. I am a life-long Oregonian and I strongly support the four CEI Hub bills -- HB 3450, HB 2949, HB 2152, HB 2151 -- and urge you to pass these bills out of Committee. I am very grateful to my representative, Chair Tran, for taking the lead on these bills.

I am deeply concerned about the risks of the CEI hub because I hike regularly in Forest Park and I live near the railroad tracks. The danger of earthquake or train derailment, spillage, and fire are very real and would devastate our irreplaceable urban forest and our beloved and battered river (already a Superfund site).

It makes no sense at all to store 90% of Oregon's fuel on a liquefaction zone between the forest and the river. We desperately need to think ahead and make a plan. HB 3450 would start us on the road to a holistic plan for the hub, including thinking about how and where to move some of the fuel stored there.

I have so often seen companies extract and make use of land, create a hazardous mess and then leave—Butte, Montana, the mountaintop-removal mining in Appalachia and many other examples. We need to prevent that from happening at the hub. HB 2949 would direct the DEQ to start a risk bond study for the hub, a first step towards not allowing that to happen here.

Another issue of concern is first responders in the event of a catastrophic event at the hub. HB 2152 would assure that there is adequate fuel stored elsewhere for those first responders' use.

Finally, I support HB 2151 which expands the use of the Seismic Mitigation Fund to include advance preparedness.

These four bills are a beginning of really grappling with the ongoing threat of the CEI Hub's concentration of dangerous fuels. There is much more to do, but I urge you to pass these bills and allow Oregon to start making a real plan to avoid the disaster that will come if we do nothing.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Margaret Butler  
NE Portland (district 45)