

Submitter: Stephanie Young

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3450

To the Committee Members:

I write today in strong support of the proposed legislation directing the State Department of Energy to develop a comprehensive energy storage transition plan for Oregon's Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub (CEI Hub).

This bill represents a crucial advancement in Oregon's approach to the CEI Hub challenge. Rather than continuing to simply acknowledge the dangers posed by the current infrastructure, this legislation creates a pathway toward meaningful solutions through strategic planning and implementation.

The benchmarked goals mandated in this bill serve several important functions:

They allow us to begin making progress through manageable, incremental steps rather than attempting an overwhelming complete overhaul.

They create a framework for measuring success and maintaining accountability throughout what will necessarily be a multi-year transition process.

They support both safety and equity in our energy transition by recognizing that all flammable, combustible, and toxic materials stored in the CEI Hub zone pose inherent dangers to surrounding communities.

Of particular importance is the inclusive planning process outlined in the legislation. By ensuring all interested and affected parties have a seat at the table, this bill honors a core principle of environmental justice. Communities that have historically borne the greatest burdens from our energy infrastructure must have a meaningful voice in planning its future.

Oregon needs a holistic approach that moves beyond merely identifying problems to implementing viable solutions. This transition plan will allow our state to address climate concerns, safety risks, and environmental inequities simultaneously while creating a roadmap for responsible infrastructure planning.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this forward-thinking legislation and help Oregon move toward a safer, more equitable energy future.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie