



Forest Park Neighborhood Association

C/O Neighbors West Northwest
434 NW 6th Ave. Suite 202
Portland, Oregon 97209

February 27, 2025

Re: **Support for House Bills 3450, 2152, 2151, and 2949**

Dear Chair Tran and House Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans Committee Members,

Forest Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bills 3450, 2152, 2151, and 2949. We support these bills. FPNA signed onto the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub task force letter dated October 1, 2024 but is providing this testimony because this issue is so important to our residents.

We urge you to support these bills. The proposed energy storage transition plan (**HB 3450**), plan for statewide diversity of fuel supplies (**HB 2152**), funding for planning and preparations for fires due to earthquake and supporting earthquake alerts (**HB 2151**), and a DEQ assessment of tools to establish financial responsibility for owners and operators of Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub tanks in the event of a worst-case-scenario spill or fire (**HB 2949**) **are important steps to reduce the enormous hazard posed by the CEI hub in Portland.**

The CEI hub is adjacent to Portland's 5000+ acre Forest Park. It is an ongoing threat to the park and the homes in nearby neighborhoods on both sides of the Willamette River. Our neighborhood includes Forest Park and many homes around the edges of the park -- all uphill from the CEI hub. Rep. Isadore and Senator Reynolds represent our neighborhood.

We are keenly aware of the serious risks posed by this infrastructure adjacent to Forest Park – risks to the environment including Forest Park, the Willamette River, and the air we breathe, as well as risks to lives and community health in the local area and across the region.

In the event of a large earthquake or accident in the CEI hub, explosions and flammable liquids could easily set fire to Forest Park, starting a wildfire likely to result not only in extensive damage to the park but putting homes and lives throughout our neighborhood at risk and spread pollutants across the region. Fuel leaks can also result in toxic fumes reaching our homes.

These bills are important steps to reduce the potential harms from the CEI hub in Portland, diversify state fuel storage, and plan for CEI hub fires due to earthquakes.

We join CEI Hub Task Force advocates in supporting efforts to reduce the risks from these facilities and to hold all property owners and businesses operating within the CEI Hub *accountable and responsible* to ensure safe operation, maintenance, rapid response intervention and remediation in the event of a tank failure.

Adoption of **HB 3450 and 2949** will result in an assessment of financial assurance requirements for owners or operators of bulk oils and liquid fuels terminals. These requirements should be effective tools for reducing risks associated with petrochemical storage failures and incentivize companies to adhere to best-practices models.

We agree with League of Women Voters that **HB 3450** should be amended to more clearly state the objectives of such a plan and the process used to achieve those objectives.

We like that **HB 2949** applies statewide and includes hazards other than earthquakes. A wildfire in Forest Park, an accident on the adjunct railroad lines or a drone incident could also result in catastrophic release of hazardous fuels and/or fire. We suggest you consider modifying HB 3450 to include similar provisions.

HB 2152 directs the Oregon DOE to develop a plan be developed to diversify fuel storage locations. Diversifying storage of critical resources is simply smart policy -- an extremely good idea regardless of the CEI hub. Developing diverse fuel storage locations should also help reduce CEI hub risks in the long term. More storage locations across the state would provide alternative storage where fuels could be stored while CEI hub facilities are upgraded to be safer, if current facilities are not sufficient for that purpose.

HB 2151 supports grants or financial assistance for planning and preparing for fires due to an Earthquake and grants or financial assistance for earthquake emergency response and evacuation planning, in addition to funding earthquake early detection and alerts. Until the CEI hub risks are reduced or eliminated, its important to plan for emergency response. Earthquake alerts can help the entire community minimize loss of life and harm to property.

Thank you for your attention to this problem and your ongoing efforts to reduce these risks and increase accountability.

Sincerely,

Carol Chesarek
Secretary, Forest Park Neighborhood Association

Forest Park Neighborhood welcomes everyone: all races, religions, countries of origin, sexual orientations, genders and abilities. Our neighborhood is enriched by the diversity of our residents and community members. Each individual has dignity and the potential to contribute to our community as a whole. We embrace and respect one another first as neighbors, and we strive to look out for each other. We encourage everyone to engage with our neighborhood to create a welcoming and safe place to live, work and recreate. Hate has no home here.