

Submitter: Richard Alexander

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2949

My name is Richard Alexander and I strongly support the four CEI Hub bills - HB 2949, HB 3450, HB 2151, and HB 2152 - and urge you to pass these bills out of committee.

I am concerned with the current status of the CEI Hub because of its location on the Cascadia Subduction Zone and the antiquated technology that is being used to store the dangerous fuels and chemicals therein. If the CEI Hub remains where it currently exists when the Big Cascadia Quake hits, the impact will be immeasurable. Loss of life, loss of quality of life, and economic strain is inevitable.

There is a wide range of concerns that I cannot even begin to touch on. The potential catastrophe that is going to result from this ticking time bomb will lead to a chemical spill that will far exceed the impacts of the Valdez tragedy and the longterm suffering that our first responders will be subjected to may very well be similar to those who answered the calls on September 11th. Currently, the property taxes paid by Zenith are somewhere in the neighborhood of a quarter million dollars per annum. If we were the type of society to put a dollar value on life, and we are, this is not very much money coming in for the risks involved. The cost benefit analysis is quite easy to weigh.

These four CEI Hub bills are important to the State of Oregon: We need a transition plan for the CEI Hub; we need risk bonding for when the storage facilities fail; we need an alternative emergency fuels plan; and we need to expand the Seismic Risk mitigation fund.

Thank you for your consideration. I very much look forward to a safer Oregon for our future generations.

Respectfully,

Richard Alexander