

Submitter: Arthi Vijaykumar

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3450

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

My name is Arthi. I am an engineer based in Portland. I am writing in strong support for the 4 CEI hub bills -- HB3450, HB2949, HB2152 and HB2151 -- and urge you to pass these bills out of the Committee.

As a Portland resident, I am very concerned about the location of the CEI hub and the potential it has for environmental and urban destruction. In the event of a catastrophe such as an earthquake, the CEI hub has the potential to cause a major pollution event in the Columbia River, as well as the potential to start a wildland-urban interface fire as it is located right across from Forest Park. Data has shown that if a fire were to start in this area, the firefighters would not be able to prevent the destruction of the Linton neighborhood in Portland. Furthermore, in the event of a catastrophe, the majority of the state's liquid fuel and all of the state's jet fuel would be inaccessible, which may put people at risk of an energy crisis, especially if these fuels are not accessible to emergency responders. For these reasons, we need a transition plan for the CEI hub, a robust system of risk bonding, an emergency fuels plan, and an expansion to the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund. All of these bills would provide Portland residents and Oregon residents in general with measures of assurance that we will be kept safe and have access to energy without the burden of cost being on ordinary people in the event of a catastrophe. HB3450 in particular is incredibly important because it is the first ever holistic plan created to transition away from the dangerous concentration of 90% of our state's fuels in the CEI hub, and would help to protect the beautiful forest and Columbia River that we call our home.

Sincerely,
Arthi