

Submitter: David Labby

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3450

Chair Tran and Members of the Committee. My name is David Labby and I live in Portland Oregon. I urge you to support all 4 of the CEI hub bills before the committee. As you are hearing, the CEI hub is not just a ticking time bomb for the City of Portland. It's a ticking time bomb for the whole state.

We need legislation because, in reality, no individual facility can fully address the risk that concentrating 90% of Oregon's fuel on an unstable earthquake zone poses to our communities and our State.

Previous legislation (HB 1567) passed in 2022 required each of the 16 individual facilities to do a "Seismic Vulnerability Assessment" and submit it to DEQ as the first step in mitigating their Cascadia earthquake risk.

Progress has been slow, but even the most ambitious response, the full mitigation plan submitted for the PDX airport, shows the limits of what one facility can do: despite completely rebuilding their facility and having a state of the art fire suppression system, PDX will still rely on the Portland City water system for fire response, which is expected to break apart in an earthquake.

The same was noted by all the CEI facilities along the river: a Cascadia quake will break the municipal water main along St Helens Rd, leaving all their fire water systems dry. Individual facilities can't earthquake proof the city water supply. Individual facilities can't address what would happen if CEI fires were to spread to nearby Forest Park and its neighborhoods; or how first responders would deal with potentially toxic spills and plumes with roads and bridges broken impassable. Nor can they address how communities across Oregon would continue to operate having lost access to the States major fuel supply, which is why we need HB 2152 on "Disaster Reserves."

Yes, we need to incentivize CEI and similar fuel companies across the State to seismically mitigate their facilities, through risk bonding as in HB 2949 and expansion of the Risk Mitigation Fund as in HB 2151.

But most of all we need an overall plan for the CEI hub as in HB 3450, starting yesterday.

There are four back-to-back CEI facilities on Portland NW Front Avenue that hold over half the CEI tanks, almost 400 of the 600 total tanks; from space it looks like one big facility. It is indeed a ticking time bomb. It is overseen by multiple agencies at the local, state and federal level.

Ideally, these facilities would coordinate efforts; ideally, one agency would regulate them all. Neither happens. This is why the Legislature must act to ensure that Oregon has a plan and supporting programs for a safe and resilient energy future. I urge you to pass these next CEI and bulk fuel storage bills.

Thank you.