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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3450

In 2015, Oregon Public Broadcasting launched a month -long information campaign to help the public prepare for a major West Coast earthquake in the next fifty years. OPB created a documentary, Unprepared which was shown free at all the McMenamins theatres. I walked to the Kennedy School theater with my neighbors where we watched the film and listened to a panel of scientists, engineers and such. We learned that Oregon was relatively unprepared compared to its neighbors Washington and California.

We learned that all the fuel for the state of Oregon is stored in Portland along the Columbia River at the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI)Hub. We learned that the soil on which these tanks stand will liquify in an earthquake. The tanks would be rendered useless and would spill flammable fuel into the river. Thousands of lives will be at risk and the state will have no fuel available to run essential equipment necessary to support rescue efforts after the quake.

We all left the theater shocked and afraid and went home to create earthquake preparedness kits for our homes and families. Tons of people created these kits due to this informational campaign, but, in the ten years since, what has NOT been created is a plan on the part of government and partners to address the risk of the CEI Hub.

This is an egregious lack of responsibility! I can imagine how it will look to the nation after the earthquake to find that our government did not take steps to address the risk of the CEI Hub.

I urge you to support HB 3450 -CEI Hub Transition Plan.