

Submitter: Stephanie Yount

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2152

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong support for 2152 regarding disaster fuel security planning and the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub.

The current location of the CEI Hub poses an unacceptable risk to our communities. Situated along a major river that empties into the ocean while being in a significant earthquake zone, this facility represents a ticking time bomb for both environmental disaster and critical infrastructure failure.

This bill addresses several crucial points that I strongly endorse:

First, it recognizes the vulnerability of our emergency response systems. When a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake strikes, emergency responders across the state will lose access to vital fuel if the CEI Hub becomes inoperable. This threatens our ability to conduct life-saving operations precisely when they are most needed.

Second, the bill requires completion of an actionable disaster fuel security plan. This builds upon the groundwork laid by ODOE's 2024 Energy Security Plan, which identified 31 "population islands" that would be cut off from fuel resupply during a major earthquake. Having a concrete plan is essential for maintaining critical services during catastrophic events.

Third, it ensures that community safety and environmental justice are prioritized when selecting new or expanded disaster fuel storage sites. Too often, hazardous facilities are placed near vulnerable communities that lack the political power to object.

Finally, the bill acknowledges Oregon's ongoing transition away from fossil fuels, requiring consideration of this shift in our emergency planning.

As a resident concerned about the health and safety of Portland's communities, I believe this bill represents a vital step toward protecting our environment, ensuring equitable disaster response capabilities, and creating more resilient infrastructure systems.

I urge you to support this necessary legislation.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie