

OREGON PSR

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

February 28, 2025

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

Subject: Support HB 3450

Dear Chair Lively, Vice–Chair Gamba, Vice–Chair Bobby Levy, and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment,

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR) is an organization of over 2,000 health professionals and public health advocates working to address the gravest threats to human health and survival. One of the gravest threats to health and safety facing Oregonians is the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake in the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub. For this reason, we are submitting testimony in support of HB 3450. This bill would direct the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to study and develop an “energy storage transition plan” for the CEI Hub.

Scientists predict there is about a 37% chance that an earthquake of 7.1+ magnitude in the CSZ will occur in the next 50 years. Unfortunately, the CEI Hub was built on unstable soil subject to liquefaction and lateral spreading in an earthquake. A CSZ earthquake in the CEI Hub would result in an oil spill akin to the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, immeasurable cultural losses, detrimental impacts to human health, and massive costs in damages, possibly totaling to billions. It is a public health and safety risk to have 90% of Oregon’s liquid fuels in such a hazardous location. Oregon PSR strongly urges you to support HB 3450.

Sincerely,



Samantha Hernandez

Healthy Climate Program Director

