

Submitter: Catherine Bax

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3450

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and member of the House Committee on Emergency

Management, General Government and Veterans,

My name is Catherine Bax. I am a Portland resident and a retired physician assistant.

Please do what you can to pass HB 3450.

A Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake in the Critical Energy Infrastructure (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.

Oregon needs get serious about this threat NOW.

HB 3450 would direct the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to study and develop an “energy storage

transition plan” for the CEI Hub. It is a public health and safety risk to have 90% of Oregon’s liquid fuels in such a hazardous location.

I am concerned about the health and safety risks of a disaster in the CEI Hub. Not only to those of us who live near the Hub but to all Oregonians who will be burdened with the results of the of the disaster when it eventually happens. Volatile fuels, additives and gasses will be spewed into the atmosphere, the soil and the river.

Likely the fuels will

ignite and release a toxic plume of air pollutants that are dangerous for those working at the site and first responders but also to those in surrounding neighborhoods, not only people but pets, livestock and wildlife. The air pollutants released include volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, particulate

matter and sulfur dioxide. They are associated with increased risks of cancer, asthma, exacerbation of chronic respiratory diseases, and strokes.

The health costs of a CEI Hub disaster will be enormous. In addition, the costs to cleanup an oil spill as a result of a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake are projected to be between \$109 million to \$1.4 billion.

Oregon needs a “energy storage transition plan” now because of the cost of not doing this will be far greater. Oregon cannot afford the cost of major disasters. And at this point, help from the Federal Government is not something we should count on. I strongly urge you not to adopt an amendment that would pre-empt action by an entity other than the State, precludes another governmental entity such as Multnomah County taking action now. The State would always have the option of taking over the transition plan.

Pass this bill now and let's get going on this. Don't let Oregon fall prey to one of the

key tactics of the fossil fuel industry: delay, delay, delay. We need to take action NOW.

Thank you.

Catherine Bax