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House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 3450, HB 2949, HB 2152, and HB 2151

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Willamette Riverkeeper, we are writing to express our strong support for HB 3450, HB 2949, HB 2152, and HB 2151, all relating to the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub. Willamette Riverkeeper is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that works to protect and restore the Willamette River and its tributaries throughout the Willamette Basin. In this capacity, Willamette Riverkeeper participated on the Fuel Tank Seismic Stability Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

Almost all of Oregon's large fuel tanks sit along the Willamette River on liquefiable soil. The majority are found in North Portland, along the Willamette right before it meets the Columbia River. This location stores 90% of the state's gasoline and diesel and all the jet fuel used at Portland International Airport. According to a report released by Multnomah County and the city of Portland, the estimated amount of fuel released during a seismic major event would equal that of the Deepwater Horizon spill of 2010, the largest oil spill in U.S. waters to date. Unlike the Deepwater Horizon spill, this spill would take place over the course of mere minutes in the heart of a major city, along an inland waterway vital to ecosystems and the commerce of the Pacific Northwest. While steps have been taken since this report came out, we are still years away from having seismically stable fuel tanks and the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake could hit, or the Portland Hills fault zone could become active at any time. HB 3450, HB 2949, HB 2152, and HB 2151 could mitigate some of the risk and are important steps to the state's security and resilience.

HB 3450 brings representatives from all interested parties, experts, agencies, and stakeholders together to develop an energy storage transition plan for

the CEI Hub, describing short, medium, and long-term goals. This action is sorely needed, as our current fuel storage is precarious at best. To ensure resilience in the state's energy sector, plans are needed, and they need to include all interested parties' input for a comprehensive and cohesive plan to be developed. Currently, almost all of Oregon's eggs are in one basket and that basket is unstable and located in an area where, even if the fuel tanks were to remain standing, roads and bridges will likely be destroyed during a seismic event, making this fuel extremely difficult to reach.

HB 2949 requires DEQ to contract with a third party to "study and assess" the potential for the owners of the fuel tanks to obtain financial assurances for costs related to a major oil spill resulting from an earthquake. While the owners and operators of these fuel tanks create their own risk analysis and mitigation measures, it is important for an outside party without a financial interest in these fuel tanks to review these structures and determine what is needed to protect our waters, or at the very least, clean our waters if a major oil spill was to occur. Those with a financial stake in these tanks will have a more skewed view for what is needed, with the costs of these assurances being at the forefront. An unbiased third party will be able to look at the whole picture and require what is needed.

HB 2152 would have the DOE, DEQ, and DLCDC develop a "Statewide Geographic Diversity of Fueling Stations for Disaster Reserves Priority Action Plan." As stated previously, all but a few of the state's large fuel tanks are located along the Willamette River, with 90% of the storage being in Portland, and few tanks are also located along the Columbia River. All of these large tanks are at significant seismic risk due their locations. If a major seismic event were to take place today, the state could risk losing almost all its fuel in one giant spill at a time where that fuel will be sorely needed for the cleanup and rebuilding efforts, as well as the many emergency actions that would have to promptly begin after the event. That doesn't even account for the environmental disaster caused by the oil spill that would add to the chaos. This puts the state in an extremely insecure place as we cannot prevent these seismic events, only mitigate the harms that will be caused by them. Increasing the geographic diversity of liquid fuel storage in Oregon, especially in areas at lower risk of seismic events, is absolutely vital for the state's energy security. Importantly, this action plan must also account for negative impacts on the environmental health of communities in areas identified for potential locations for fuel tanks. These environmental justice considerations must be taken into account for all actions relating to fuel storage.

Finally, HB 2151 increases the purposes for which money in the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund may be used for. This bill allows for the money in the fund to be used for planning and preparedness efforts related to fires caused by these fuel tanks as the result of a seismic event, planning for emergency response and evacuation routes, and transfers money to ODEM to support early detection and alert activities. All these actions are needed, and our goose will be cooked if we don't have plans in place, alerts ready, and are not prepared for the known consequences of a major seismic event taking place under unstable fuel tanks. This bill does not remove any purposes the money can be used for, just gives the state more options and flexibility.

These four bills will help prepare the state for a major seismic event and ensure for more security surrounding our fuel storage and energy future. It is vital we continue to take steps to mitigate the harms that may be caused by large fuel tanks in the face of a seismic event. We know large earthquakes are on the horizon, and while we do not know when they will hit, we can prepare to the best of our ability. Willamette Riverkeeper urges you to pass HB 3450, HB 2949, HB 2152, and HB 2151 to continue this preparation.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

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