

Submitter: Lauren Isaac

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2949

Dear Chair March, Vice Chair Levy, Vice Chair Levy and members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren Isaac. I live in Portland and have volunteered with the Risk Bond Coalition in Multnomah County. I am writing today in support of HB2949.

As a motor vehicle owner in Oregon I am required by law to provide proof on insurance before I can register my vehicle. This is a sensible law, as drivers have the potential to cause great damage to themselves and others.

Many companies in Oregon store bulk oils or liquid fuels which if spilled could release toxic chemicals into our air, soil, water and and cause great damage to our environment and the people of our state. By and large these companies are self-insured, the equivalent of a car owner with no insurance, It only makes sense to hold these companies to the same standard we hold our motor vehicle owners.

HB2949 will require Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality to contract for a study to assess financial assurances or risk bonds for owners or operators of bulk oils and liquid fuel terminals. This is an important first step toward making our state safer.

Until we have some kind of assurance that those storing dangerous compounds have the funds to remediate any damage caused by spills, Oregon taxpayers are at risk of paying for any clean up. Let's figure out how to align financial responsibility with societal risk. Please pass HB2949 out of Committee.

Thank you,
Lauren Isaac
Portland