

Submitter: Melanie Plaut
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2949

My name is Melanie Plaut. I'm a retired physician who lives in NE Portland and would be affected by a disaster at the CEI Hub. I have been working for years to improve safety in this area.

I am opposed to this bill if it includes as preemption clause. I believe WSPA is trying to kill all efforts to do risk-bonding in the state of Oregon.

You have heard the experts' testimony about the Hub, in short: it's bad, and time is NOT on our side.

For this reason, I support all four of these CEI bills. We have known about these risks for years if not decades, and it is good to see action finally being taken.

Imagine that the expected earthquake happens, and you have done nothing about this well-recognized risk. Imagine the finger pointing as the damage from fires and spills devastates not only the local area, but also impedes the response by disabling the means by which liquid fuels are distributed around the state.

If this disaster were to happen in the near future, what is the likelihood that we could count on this federal administration to respond? I think it is unlikely: they have all but said we will be on our own. For this reason, one of the most urgent needs is to implement Risk Bonding, that is, to require the fossil fuel companies, with their immense profits, to make funds available up front for our recovery. This would at least protect local governments and tax-payers from bearing the cost, on top of bearing the damage and suffering.

You have heard that the Western States Petroleum Association would like to preempt other jurisdictions from taking action. Make no mistake, this is just another ploy for delay delay and more delay, since Multnomah County, the area that would be most severely affected by a seismic event at the Hub, is on the verge of passing an ordinance to put Risk Bonding in place for County costs. If down the line the state decides to implement a Risk Bond program, that would be the time to sort out any jurisdictional differences. I strongly urge you to stand up to any delay tactics and refuse any attempt to insert amendments which would lead to jurisdictional pre-

emption and more delay. Time is NOT on our side.

Thank you. .

Melanie Plaut MD
melanie.plaut@gmail.com
Portland Oregon 97212