

Submitter: Ann Turner

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2949

Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

My name is Ann Turner. I am a retired primary care physician, a member of and Co-President of the Board of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR), and a member of the Risk Bond Coalition. I live in NE Portland and would definitely be impacted by a disaster in the CEI Hub.

Oregon PSR is a statewide organization of more than 2,000 health professionals and health advocates, working to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival. A Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake in the CEI Hub qualifies as a grave threat to health and survival.

I want to thank you and all of the legislative sponsors for four important CEI Hub bills that will authorize the State to act to increase the safety and security of all Oregonians.

However, I am concerned that at the last two hearings on HB 2949, Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) lobbyists proposed that there be a preemption amendment that would prevent local and county governments from passing their own protections. This is clearly a tactic of the fossil fuel industry to delay, delay, delay their taking financial responsibility for the environmental and human harm caused by a disaster in the CEI Hub.

If a preemption amendment is adopted, I will strongly oppose passing HB 2949. Multnomah County is where at least 90% of all of the fossil fuel in the State is stored. The Multnomah County Commissioners have been working on an ordinance to require financial assurances from the industries in the Hub to cover the cost of the inevitable disaster.

We will not be able to count on help from federal programs through the EPA or FEMA. For example, Lee Zeldin, the new Administrator of the EPA reported that the EPA plans to cut 65% of its staff. In addition, more than 200 employees at FEMA, an already understaffed agency, have been laid off. President Trump has said that managing disasters is best left to the States themselves. No State, including Oregon, can afford the cost of major disasters.

In the long run, it may make the most sense for the State to be the entity that implements, regulates and oversees a financial assurances statute. In fact, changing

the current bill from a study bill to a regulatory bill may make sense but only if that bill is STRONG.

With the likelihood of a preemption amendment being added to HB 2949, I oppose its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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