

7 March 2025

RE: HB 2949 – Opposition to any pre-emptive amendment for any CEI Hub bill

Chair Tran and Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans:

My name is Dr. Walter Shriner, and I am a scientist and educator, proud Oregonian, and resident of Multnomah County. I live in the blast zone of fuel-train-cars and my family and neighbors would be harmed by any accidental release of fuel at the CEI hub.

I have already provided written testimony in support of the CEI hub bills, **but I am compelled to testify today to voice my strong opposition to the pre-emptive amendment proposed by the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) during this hearing for HB 2949.**

While the petroleum association may claim that pre-emption is necessary for regulatory certainty, there is no compelling reason that they could not comply with the first and/or multiple jurisdictions that require financial assurances. Their industry is quite adept at handling regulations from federal, state, and local governments and even from other countries. Furthermore, financial assurances are not a new concept. It is a standard business practice for this industry as well as many others.

Nonetheless, it is no surprise that WSPA has suggested state pre-emption, because restricting action to the State stops counties and other jurisdictions from developing their own regulations right away.

This harms our community and all residents of Oregon in two important ways.

1. First, it stops dead the efforts of Multnomah County – where the commissioners have been working thoughtfully over the last year to develop an effective and meaningful ordinance requiring financial assurances for operators of tanks in the CEI hub.
2. Second, it delays any implementation of financial assurances for multiple years, providing WSPA ample opportunity to weaken or kill any state efforts, while not taking any action to harden their facilities today.

Let me be clear, a pre-emption amendment would gut HB 2949 and our collective efforts to make our communities safer and more secure. It would be a disaster for the residents of Multnomah County and all Oregonians. You have heard ample testimony on the urgency of action. SB 1567 was a great start, but many of the tank operators are employing the effective strategy of delay, delay, delay.

Multnomah County is on the cusp of passing an ordinance that incentivizes the retrofits required by SB1567 sooner rather than as late as possible. Don't pull the rug out from under the County Commission to appease the very industry that is dragging its feet.

Do not include pre-emptive language in this bill. The residents of the state deserve immediate action, **where and when**, it can be done, while the State acts swiftly to study and develop its own approach.

It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes all jurisdictions to keep a community safe. I look forward to supporting each of the moves the State, County, and City to make more secure the fuel stores in the CEI hub and throughout Oregon.

Thank you,

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