

Submitter: David Labby

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2949

Chair Tran and members of the committee:

My name is David Labby and I live in Portland, Oregon.

I oppose any amendment to HB 2949 that makes it less likely for significant risk bonding to be implemented for the CEI hub.

Advocates in Portland have worked tirelessly for several years with the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to advance strong risk bonding. Two of the new Commissioners are now championing a County risk bonding measure, which appears to have broad support and an excellent chance of passage in the near term.

Any “regulatory” amendment to HB 2949 that would preempt that process both delays the implementation of CEI risk bonding and disempowers local control. Those of us in Portland bear the major risk of the CEI hub, although the benefits are shared across the state. Our concerns need to be central to how risk bonding is implemented.

Any “regulatory” amendment that specifically includes “preemption” – that the State program would override the terms of any local program – is simply an invitation to ensure that risk bonding is as weak as possible.

I oppose any “regulatory” amendment to HB 2949 that 1) does not encourage local risk bonding efforts to inform the State program, 2) explicitly states that State regulations will not preempt stronger local risk bonding measures, and 3) is not built around the Principles document created by the Risk Business Coalition, which has already been submitted to the committee.

We appreciate Representative Tran’s leadership on advancing solutions to the enormous risks inherent in the CEI hub. We hope this bill does not become instead a roadblock to the local progress being made.

Thank you.