

March 15, 2025

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

Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of House Bill 3492.

We have long known that a large earthquake in Oregon will result in catastrophic damage and casualties statewide, with the Portland metro area suffering in the extreme because of the concentration of fuels at the bulk fuels terminal in the CEI Hub. Then, in 2023 the [Multnomah County Hazmat release study](#) revealed that a large earthquake could release deadly Hazmat toxins; estimating additional tens of thousands of deaths and injuries. As the County's announcement described it, "New report shows toxic gasses pose grave risks after Cascadia earthquake."

That County study was based on only four of the seventy such facilities in Multnomah County, and none of the hundreds of such facilities in other seismically-vulnerable locations in Oregon. We have an inkling of the grave danger, but not enough information to do anything about it.

HB 3492 is the essential next step. The State and localities cannot develop mitigation, protection, or emergency response plans without a clearer understanding of the seismic toxic release risk potential and remediation options.

Multnomah County has taken the lead in shining a light on this looming threat to health and safety. The CSZ will affect the entire state. This is a statewide danger that, like other seismic preparedness measures, requires a robust, pro-active state-level response.

I strongly urge you to support HB 3492 and move it through to full enactment.

Thank you-
Nikki Mandell
House District 46
Senate District 23