

Submitter: Carina Solis  
On Behalf Of: St Johns Neighborhood  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749

April 11, 2025

ATTENTION: Representative Susan McClain

Testimony Before the Oregon Legislature

Regarding Senate Bill 2749

Submitted by Carina Solis, Safety and Livability Chair, St. Johns Neighborhood Association

Chair McLain and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carina Solis, and I am here today both as a resident of St. Johns and in my capacity as the Safety and Livability Chair of the St. Johns Neighborhood Association. I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2749, and to respectfully urge that this critical bill be granted a hearing.

St. Johns is a proud, historic, and tightly knit community in North Portland. We are a geographically and economically vulnerable neighborhood, and in the event of a major natural disaster—such as the long-overdue Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake—our community faces the real threat of becoming completely isolated. With limited access points and bridges, the Northern Peninsula could effectively become an island, leaving our residents—especially our most vulnerable neighbors like seniors, children, and low-income families—cut off from critical supplies, services, and safe evacuation routes.

Our community understands this risk and is not waiting passively. We've come together with urgency and resolve. In just the past month, an extraordinary number of community members have mobilized to request that House Bill 2749 receive a hearing. This is not an isolated moment—it reflects who we are.

We come together not only in times of challenge, like our recent efforts to prevent the closure of our cherished community center, but also in joy and celebration—at our beloved annual Bizarre, at Día de los Niños, and in the countless neighborhood events that keep our culture, identity, and resilience alive. This deep sense of community is our greatest strength.

But even a strong community needs infrastructure that can support its safety. Our proximity to the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) hub adds additional urgency to the conversation—posing a severe environmental and public health risk in the event of a disaster. We must be proactive. Senate Bill 2749 would allow us to plan ahead, create effective evacuation strategies, and ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect lives.

Please help us continue to unite around a shared goal of safety, resilience, and preparedness by granting this bill a hearing. The people of St. Johns are ready to do

our part—we're asking for your partnership in making sure we can.  
Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carina Solis

Safety & Livability Chair

St. Johns Neighborhood Association