

Submitter:

Rachel Chlasta

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2749

To the members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

Firstly, I would like to thank you for holding a meeting on this critical matter. I have lived in St. Johns for the past seven years and have spent many of those years, particularly the last few, worrying about what will happen to our beloved community when (not if!) the CSZ earthquake strikes.

I have readied my house, including seismic retrofitting and emergency gas valve shut offs, but I cannot mitigate the risks that come from the CEI hub. Nor can I ensure my family, including my husband and children ages 0, 3, and 4 years old, will be able to escape to safety if needed. My husband and I are both in healthcare and spend long days away from home, depending on childcare providers to keep our children safe. When the earthquake strikes, our children will be trapped on the north peninsula without us- perhaps surviving the initial quake only to be subjected to the toxic chemicals that the city and state have allowed to sit unsecured across the river from our community. Please put yourselves in my shoes for a moment to understand the gravity of that situation.

St. Johns is no stranger to losing precious resources that the rest of the city enjoys- from the closure of Columbia Pool to the unrepaired Pier Park Pool, our library closing without a temporary location in place, and now possibly losing our community center due to lack of funding. However, the lack of an emergency route for our residents is one area in which we cannot allow ourselves to be overlooked. This is our lifeline, and you have the opportunity to help us secure it.

Respectfully,

Rachel Chlasta, PharmD, BCACP, CDCES