

Submitter: Jeffrey Desautels

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am very concerned that the north peninsula will be cut off from the rest of Portland in the event of an earthquake because the bridges over "the cut" will surely collapse. I am grateful that your committee is considering HB 2749 to protect my fellow Oregonians who live in North Portland and I strongly urge you to pass this important bill. The funding this bill would provide to design a new bridge over Columbia Boulevard is imperative to their future safety. St. Johns is NOT a sacrifice zone! When "the big one" hits, families will be separated. No emergency vehicles or repair trucks will be able to get in or out. No medical help or food supplies will be able to access the area. And, in the worst-case scenario, St. Johns residents will all be trapped if a toxic cloud comes from the CEI hub. This emergency could last months, leaving roughly 20,000 residents in a horribly untenable situation. This is an issue of environmental equity. St. Johns is a lower-income, diverse community. It should not be abandoned in a moment of crisis. Please pass HB 2749!

Thank you,

Jeff Desautels