

Submitter: Josh Hawk  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2749

Dear State Representatives,

My name is Joshua Hawk and I am a pastor in the St Johns Community. Being a lifelong resident of St Johns I have seen a lot of people come and go and with them a lot of empty promises by both people and groups. I love our community deeply and I believe St Johns to be one of Portland's true gems. From the Portland Jazz festival to our small businesses, our local schools, and our farmers market, the North Peninsula of our beloved city is something extraordinary.

The HB 2749 bill matters to me personally because this would aim to fix a major problem for the neighborhoods of my aging parents, some of my siblings, and my nieces and nephews. There are also many people in the congregation I pastor who reside in these affected neighborhoods and would be catastrophically affected if something were to happen before this problem is fixed.

Experts tell us it is not a matter of if a large-scale earthquake occurs but rather when. Our current reality is that when this happens the St Johns and Cathedral Park neighborhoods will be completely isolated. We will become a true island. Families will be separated, and emergency vehicles will not be able to come in or out of the area. This geographic area is home to around 20,000 residents. It is home to several different schools. Children will be separated from their parents for who knows how long. This bill is not merely a good idea, but this bill is aimed at addressing an essential problem that needs to be fixed.

Thank you so much, from a community that has often not received the love it deserves, for hearing our testimony and considering this bill that will likely save thousands of lives.

Rev. Josh Hawk