

Submitter:

Maggie Armstrong

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

I am writing to submit testimony in support of funding to create plans securing the emergency route from north peninsula of Portland. While funding throughout government is limited and precious, this is an area that should be given significant serious consideration. A large earthquake is imminent and will threaten residents across Portland. However, north Portland is under considerable threat due to the CEI Hub storing 90% of the fuel for the state of Oregon. In addition, it is known that the "emergency route" we currently have consists of 2 bridges that are known to not be earthquake resistant. This means all residents of north Portland peninsula will be cut off from the rest of the city and unable to evacuate themselves. Preventative spending measures will secure the safety and lives of all of these residents, also saving the city from spending on future relief funds. The city should value lives saved by spending this money now. The city should be strong stewards of our resources and spend funds on preventative care instead of future reactionary care that is always more costly.

Thank you for working to protect the lives of north Portland residents.

~Maggie Armstrong

Further supportive facts listed below:

A natural disaster IS coming. It is one that will cause a life and death threat for 20,000 residents and workers. This disaster will be compounded because the state has made vulnerable the north peninsula of Portland due to storing 90% of the fuel for the whole state at the CEI Hub less than a mile away! After the quake we will have no route from which to escape or have ingress to procure food, or to receive medical help.

We are asking for \$5 million so that the city of Portland can do the design work necessary to then apply for federal monies to rebuild one of the bridges that WILL collapse, as determined by PBOT, on what is supposed to be an emergency route. It will take years before we realize an actual seismically resilient bridge, even after we obtain these funds. With a 1 in 3 chance of a major quake in the next 35 years on the radar, it behooves us to start the process of securing this emergency route as soon as possible.

IF WE DO NOT MITIGATE THE DANGER, OREGON WILL FACE A SITUATION THAT WILL DWARF THAT OF THE HORRORS OF THE SUPERDOME AFTER KATRINA. We must have an emergency route!

Families will be separated

No emergency vehicles in/out

No medical help

No food resupply

No repair trucks

In the worst-case scenario, if a toxic cloud comes from the CEI Hub -WE WILL BE TRAPPED!

This is a STATE issue and an issue of environmental justice. We live under the threat of the CEI Hub, which holds 90% of the fuel for the whole state of Oregon! If we are going to be under that threat the least the state can do is provide us an emergency route out for when it explodes!

Any city in Oregon under the threat we are under deserves an emergency route.