

Submitter: Ryan Olson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

A catastrophic natural disaster isn't a question of if—it's when. And for the 20,000 residents and workers on Portland's north peninsula, the danger is both imminent and extreme.

This community lies just one mile from the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub, which holds 90% of Oregon's fuel supply—directly atop a known seismic fault. When a major earthquake strikes, this area will be completely cut off from food, medical services, and emergency aid.

We are urgently requesting \$5 million to allow the City of Portland to complete essential design work—critical groundwork to unlock far larger federal funding. These funds will move forward the replacement of a vital bridge along the designated emergency route, a structure that experts say is certain to collapse in a major quake. Even with funding, construction will take years. With a 1-in-3 chance of a devastating earthquake occurring within the next 35 years, we cannot afford to wait.

Without immediate action, lives will be at risk. Families may be trapped, separated, or cut off from help. Emergency responders won't be able to reach people in need. Food, water, medical care, and critical infrastructure could become inaccessible for days—or longer. And in a worst-case scenario, a toxic release from the CEI Hub could render the entire area uninhabitable.

This is not just a neighborhood problem. It is a matter of statewide importance and environmental justice. When 90% of Oregon's fuel is stored in a single, vulnerable community, the state has a responsibility to ensure that community has a safe and functional way out.

Any community facing this level of risk deserves protection. It deserves a lifeline. Now is the time to act.