

7 March 2025

Chair Tran and members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans:

My name is Dr. Katherine Muller and I am a scientist, a parent of three adult children and an engaged community member. As a resident of Northeast Portland in the Hollywood neighborhood, I am in the blast zone of fuel trains heading to the CEI hub. As a resident of Multnomah County, I would be directly at risk from the economic and environmental consequences of even the smallest spill or release at the CEI hub. And, as an Oregonian, I would be one of the hundreds of thousands forever impacted by the kind of disaster that will be inevitable at the CEI hub in a seismic event.

Prior to last week's February 27<sup>th</sup> hearing, I submitted testimony in support of the four CEI bills before the committee (HB 3450, HB 2949, HB 2152, HB 2151). However, I was deeply dismayed at that hearing and, again, at the March 6<sup>th</sup> hearing when the two representatives from WSPA advocated for the addition of a pre-emption clause to HB 2949.

**The addition of a pre-emption clause to HB 2949 would be a grave error.**

Multnomah County has been working toward an ordinance requiring financial assurances for operators at the CEI hub for over a year and must not be prevented from taking action while the state conducts a study that would serve as the first step for a state-wide approach to risk-bonding. The County ordinance under consideration has two levels of risk-bonding depending on whether a facility has fully complied with the requirements of the Fuel Tank Seismic Stability program (FTSS). This two-tier approach would clearly incentivize operators to act more quickly to complete seismic retrofits that would make the tanks more resilient in the face of accidents or seismic events – making all Multnomah County residents safer sooner. Although the impacts of a disaster at the CEI hub would be felt statewide, the residents of Multnomah County would clearly bear the brunt of the economic, environmental, and health impacts and, as such, the County must not be prevented from taking action on risk-bonding.

**If a decision were made to make HB 2949 a regulatory bill rather than a study bill, it is critical that the bill be made STRONG enough to adequately cover the risks presented by the CEI hub.** A strong bill would: 1) prohibit self-insurance, 2) not provide “acts of god” loopholes, 3) not cap damages, 4) not preempt local action, 5) have strong enforcement and penalty provisions, and 6) would strongly incentivize rapid compliance with the FTSS program.

Sincerely,

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