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House Committee on Emergency Management and Veterans  
Salem, Oregon

Re: Support for HB 4032 on Statewide Geographic Dispersed Emergency Fuel Storage Sites

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Lewis, Vice-Chair Watanabe and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB 4032, which calls on the Oregon Department of Energy to evaluate and prioritize geographically dispersed emergency fuel storage sites and includes reporting requirements.

Before retiring in 2017, I managed all facilities-related matters, including capital Bond construction programs, for the Beaverton School District. In response to the Oregon Resilience Plan (ORP), we incorporated emergency shelter features in large room spaces (cafeterias, gyms, etc.) in seven new school buildings in order to support the surrounding neighborhoods after the next Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake, or any natural disaster.

One critical feature to make the shelter spaces functional was inclusion of upsized emergency generators with on-site fuel storage capable of supporting shelter operations for several days. However, we were also aware of the ORP's analysis that available liquid fuel would be extremely limited for an extended period after the earthquake due to vulnerability of the bulk fuel storage tanks at the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub in Portland. The new schools' ability to fully support their nearby communities until natural gas utility service is restored depends upon refueling the generators. Until the risks to liquid fuel storage in Oregon are mitigated, fuel resupply for this purpose is not likely to be available in a timely manner. Although some steps have been taken to address the liquid fuel storage problem, continued progress is essential. I believe HB 4032 would be an important step forward.

I urge you to pass HB 4032, which will move Oregon toward improving the availability of critically needed liquid fuel supplies after the CSZ earthquake, and help our communities recover after that disaster.

Sincerely,



Richard Steinbrugge, P.E. (ret.)