

February 8, 2026

To: House Committee on Emergency Management and Veterans
Re: Support for HB 4100 - Financial Responsibility on Bulk Fuel Terminals

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

I strongly support HB 4100, which requires owners or operators of bulk oils or liquid fuels terminals to obtain a certificate of financial responsibility from the Department of Environmental Quality. Since 1988 I implemented and managed fuel storage regulatory compliance work for the State of Oregon and private industry. Before retiring from DEQ, I managed implementation of SB 1567 (2022) which created the DEQ Fuel Tank Seismic Stability Program. I am commenting as a private compliance engineer and Oregonian, not for DEQ.

*I strongly agree that prevention of spills and environmental damage is the most desirable approach as required by SB 1567. **Even so, there are always design and implementation uncertainties and the looming Cascadia event could happen at any time.** Financial responsibility requirements are a standard industry and regulatory approach to managing such uncertainty.*

Adding financial responsibility to the DEQ Seismic Stability program complements ongoing DEQ prevention work by addressing that gap. HB4100 also allows the Environmental Quality Commission, with advice from the community and industry representatives, to create incentives to expedite risk mitigation by requiring financial responsibility levels matching the relevant risks.

I urge the Committee to pass HB4100. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. H. Kortenhof', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael H Kortenhof, RG, PE