

Submitter: Mickey Hornbeck
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or HB4100
Topic:

For the record, my name is Mick Hornbeck, and I live in the Trainsong neighborhood in west Eugene. I am here today as a resident to strongly oppose locating any new fuel storage, transfer, or refueling facilities in or near Trainsong or any other residential neighborhood.

Trainsong is already a heavily burdened community. Many of us live close to rail lines, existing industrial uses, and busy freight corridors. We experience higher levels of noise, diesel emissions, and odors than most parts of Eugene, yet we have fewer resources and less political power. Adding large-scale fuel storage or refueling operations to this mix would deepen those inequities and send a clear message that some neighborhoods are more expendable than others.

Locating fuel facilities near homes, schools, and parks raises clear public health and safety concerns. These facilities bring increased heavy-truck and rail traffic, 24-hour operations, risks of spills and fires, and ongoing emissions. Residents would be asked to live every day with the risk of a catastrophic incident, and with the smaller but constant harms of noise, fumes, and traffic. This is not compatible with a healthy residential environment.

From an environmental justice perspective, siting high-risk, high-impact fuel infrastructure in a working-class neighborhood like Trainsong is unacceptable. Our community includes children, elders, and people with chronic health conditions who are more vulnerable to air pollution and stress. When decision-makers repeatedly place industrial risks in the same neighborhoods, it is not an accident; it is a pattern. That pattern must stop.

There are also serious questions about long-term planning and climate resilience. Oregon is moving toward diversifying and decentralizing fuel storage to reduce catastrophic risk from earthquakes and other disasters, and to transition toward cleaner energy. Concentrating fuel facilities near homes in already overburdened communities runs directly counter to that direction. If the state is going to plan for emergency fuel needs, it should do so in safer, less populated areas with modern standards, strong environmental protections, and meaningful community consent. As a resident, I am not asking you to stop planning for fuel security. I am asking you to be clear that residential neighborhoods—especially those already facing cumulative environmental impacts—are the wrong places to put more tanks, more pipelines, and more truck and rail traffic. Our safety, our health, and our quality of life should not be the price of doing business.

I urge you to support policies and decisions that:
Prohibit new large fuel storage, transfer, or refueling facilities in or adjacent to residential neighborhoods.

Prioritize siting in areas that are seismically stable, away from homes and schools, and designed to the highest safety and environmental standards.

Explicitly incorporate environmental justice criteria so that communities like Trainsong are not asked, yet again, to shoulder the greatest risks.

Please stand with the residents who live with the consequences of these decisions every day. We deserve clean air, safe streets, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing that high-risk fuel infrastructure is not in our backyards.

Thank you for your time and for considering the perspective of those of us who call Trainsong home.

Sincerely,

Mick Hornbeck

Trainsong neighborhood resident, and Trainsong Neighbors neighborhood association Co-chair, Eugene, Oregon