

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

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

I live in Eugene near the railyard where there are fuel storage tanks, just this week there was a train derailment involving multiple cars.

For the safety of families in Trainsong and Bethel, Eugene, Portland, and communities across Oregon, I strongly urge you to support HB 4100.

A few moments of reflection on the Portland Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub will reveal that

this facility constitutes a serious problem. The uncontested series of Hub realities (e.g.,

Whitcomb 2024, Smith undated) indicate Portland and the state have a serious problem:

- The Hub comprises tanks that store 90% of Oregon's liquid fuel and all the jet fuel used

by the International Airport.

- Most of the tanks were built in the 1950s.

- The tanks are located on a substrate (soil) that will probably simply liquefy in the event

of a sever seismic event causing their contents to escape into the surrounding community and nearby river.

- The likelihood that the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake will strike within a few decades is rising.

- Should the earthquake occur and destroy the hub, the environmental damage and greenhouse gas emissions will be devastating.

- Oregon Senate Bill 1567 (2022) drew attention to the problem several years ago, but the

continuing threat tells us it's time to do more.

Wilson (2024), the Clackamas County Resilience Coordinator with the Department of Disaster

Management, opined that "During a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, these facilities will

have cascading failures due to long-duration and long-period amplified shaking, that will

produce liquefaction, differential settlement and lateral spreading – likely creating the worst oil spill in U.S. history.”

The question the Oregon legislature faces is simple: “Are we smart enough to recognize the problem and address it, or do we kick this can down the road again?”

Those of us living in rural Oregon may not be under the immediate threat from a seismic event destroying the hub, but, undoubtedly, we will suffer from its after-effects. In addition, it is inevitable that such an event will severely compromise the commitments that we have collectively made via the Climate Protection Program and other programs developed by the legislature to reduce Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions substantially by 2050.

The approach involving Liability Bonds seems entirely appropriate to achieve this objective.

Since the Energy Infrastructure Hub is singularly vulnerable to earthquakes and will likely contribute substantial damage to regional residents we strongly urge the legislature to pass HB 4100.

Thank you.