

CORE3CENTER.ORG

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February 10, 2026

To: Chair Rep. Thuy Tran; Vice-Chairs Lewis and Watanabe
Oregon House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

From: CORE3 Leadership

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Watanabe, and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the CORE3 leadership team, which supports a broad coalition of local, regional, state, and federal partners who have collaborated to develop the Central Oregon Ready, Responsive, Resilient (CORE3) Center, in support of HB 4032.

In any large-scale disaster, particularly a Cascadia Subduction Zone event, fuel availability becomes one of the earliest and most consequential points of failure. Police vehicles, fire engines, ambulances, and emergency response equipment cannot operate without it. When fuel supply chains are disrupted, even well-coordinated response efforts quickly get sidelined.

This bill addresses an essential gap in our preparedness framework by recognizing the need for stable, secure, long-term fuel storage that can serve the state when normal systems are compromised. That planning is not hypothetical; it is a practical necessity if Oregon intends to maintain emergency operations during prolonged or widespread disasters.

Central Oregon offers a uniquely strategic location to support this statewide need. The CORE3 Center, currently under development in Redmond, is a multi-agency emergency operations, training, and coordination facility designed specifically to support large-scale natural disasters. Its location was intentionally selected based on access and resilience.

The CORE3 site is immediately adjacent to Highways 97 and 20, near the Redmond Municipal Airport, and close to existing FEMA staging areas. These connections make it highly accessible for state and federal responders under emergency conditions and allow for efficient movement of resources across the region. Just as important, Central Oregon is geographically removed from the areas most likely to experience catastrophic infrastructure damage during a Cascadia event. Locating secure fuel storage inland provides a safer and more reliable option for maintaining emergency response capacity when coastal and valley systems may be severely impacted.

When a major disaster occurs, fuel shortages are not theoretical, they are expected. Without proactive planning, Oregon risks a scenario in which first responders are unable to sustain operations precisely when communities need them most. Establishing secure fuel storage at strategic, resilient locations like CORE3 is a practical step toward avoiding that outcome.

This bill complements existing investments in emergency response infrastructure and aligns with Oregon's broader resilience and preparedness goals. I respectfully urge your support and thank you for your leadership on behalf of Oregon's emergency responders and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ed Fitch', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ed Fitch
Mayor of Redmond and CORE3 Chair