

To; House committee on Emergency Management and Veterans
Subject: HB 4100 - 2
2/10/26

Greetings Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Lewis, vice Chair Watanabe, Members of the Committee,

I am Dr Theodora Tsongas, an environmental health scientist with a career in public health. I want to support this bill, because we have to act now to get this process started. The Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub is in a dangerously vulnerable position due to it's location on earthquake faults, on liquefiable soils, and in the path of an overdue Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake. It is also in a dangerous position for the surrounding communities as emissions for any reason, such accidents or routine venting cause pollution of the air with toxic contaminants. Explosions and fires would decimate surrounding communities. The earthquake and aftershocks will adversely impact a much larger region of the State. We cannot wait any longer to get prepared to try and survive a catastrophe.

However, I am greatly troubled by the pre-emption in this bill that prevents local jurisdictions from requiring funds from responsible parties. If we are trying to have consistent requirements with Washington State, where preemption was not required, then it should not be required in Oregon.

Furthermore, the preemption puts Multnomah County in an impossible position, as well as other local jurisdictions, because they will have to prepare and conduct emergency response including rescue and medical response as well as continuing public health management during the first days, then months, and possibly into years of an emergency response, but with no funds to prepare or do the work. Funds must be available in advance, to prepare for emergencies or people will die. Period.

If a local jurisdiction "cannot exceed or is in addition to the State requirement" then allowance must be made in the calculation of the State requirement of funds from industry to support the response by the local jurisdictions. The local jurisdictions are the first responders so they must be supported or there will be no adequate response to the emergencies that this bill is supposed to address. Or just delete the preemption.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.