

Submitter: Ann Turner  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management and Veterans  
Measure, Appointment or HB4100  
Topic:

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Watanabe, and members of the Committee, My name is Ann Turner. I am a retired physician, a volunteer with Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility and a member of the Risk Bond Coalition.

I am writing in strong support of HB 4100 to protect the health and safety of Oregonians from the devastating consequences of the release of fuels stored at the CEI Hub or elsewhere in the State, whether by accident, earthquake, or other natural disaster. This will impact the health and safety of all Oregonians and, without this bill, require tax-payer dollars for cleanup, relocation and major infrastructure repair.

HB4100 requires that the fuel companies that profit from storing their product pay for the damages that will occur when these fuels are released. Requiring financial assurances is best done at the State level for many reasons. This bill amends SB 1567, the Fuel Tank Seismic Stability bill, managed by DEQ. DEQ has the expertise and the infrastructure to implement this bill and the ability to enforce it. DEQ has the ability to require the companies involved to pay for not only Rule Making but the other costs of managing this program, resulting in no revenue impact on the State.

Because there are fuel storage tanks not only in Portland at the CEI Hub but elsewhere in the State, having DEQ manage this program means that there would not need to be several sets of rules established by the counties where tanks are located.

With the amendments--setting a date certain for requiring financial assurances, requiring that the maximum amounts be revisited every 3 years, and aligning the self-insurance rules with those of Washington, make this a good though not perfect bill. Now is the time to act. This bill has the support of industry, the business community, environmental advocates, and many governmental entities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ann Turner, MD