

February 10, 2026

TO: House Committee on Emergency Management and Veterans

RE: HB 4032, Fuels Diversification Planning

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

My name is Nikki Mandell. I'm part of the CEI Hub Task Force -- community advocates committed to raising public awareness about the CEI Hub. I also co-lead a statewide coalition advocating for state action on the CEI Hub. Coalition members are unanimous in understanding that the Critical Energy Infrastructure [CEI] Hub is a disaster waiting to happen, and that the time for action is Now.

The CEI Hub Task Force strongly urges you to vote YES on HB 4032.

Portland's CEI Hub is a state matter of highest importance. Oregon does not produce any liquid fuels. We import all the gas, diesel, aviation & jet fuel used in the state. 90% of those fuels come through the CEI Hub located in Portland. Fuel is distributed statewide from that single location. The CEI Hub is an essential part of the state's lifeline infrastructure, and it's the state's Achilles heel.

It's not hyperbole to call this a ticking time bomb with catastrophic potential. The CEI Hub tank farms are in a quadruple hazard zone: earthquake, fire, landslide, and flood; plus there are added dangers of train derailment, sabotage & human error. Bulk fuel tanks at the CEI Hub have the capacity to store more than 350 million gallons of flammable, combustible, and toxic fuel. Fewer than 2% are built or retrofitted to withstand a major earthquake. Berms and containment structures are no better. Emergency response capacities range from inadequate to non-existent. These facts are evident in the Seismic Vulnerability Assessments submitted by CEI Hub facilities as part of the state's Fuel Tank Seismic Stability Program.

Multiple studies have documented these dangers, and recommended action. I think of those as a kind of three-legged stool:

1. Safety: we need to make fuel storage as safe as technologically possible
2. Diversification: we need some fuel forward staged outside the vulnerable CEI Hub
3. Preparedness: we need resources to respond to and recover from a fuel disaster

In 2022 the legislature took a crucial first step toward two of these legs, with passage of SB 1567. The Fuel Tank Seismic Stability Program [FTSS] is designed to increase safety. We anticipate that most of the regulated facilities will begin their 10-year mitigation plans by 2028. On the diversification leg, SB 1567 called on ODOE to explore ways to increase the geographic distribution of fuel storage. The 2024 Energy Security Plan began, but did not complete that process. Today, that 3-legged stool is nowhere close to standing up.

HB 4032 will move us a little closer to knowing what is possible on the diversification front. The 2024 Energy Security Plan identified 31 population islands – regions that will be cut off by a major seismic event. It also identified 201 locations, outside of major hazard zones; locations where fuel might be able to be forward

staged . This bill calls on ODOE to narrow and prioritize those locations; by reporting on which of the 201 locations:

- will best support populations islands?
- are in areas already identified as the highest needs?
- are on state-owned or managed properties?
- are on priority transportation routes?

More work will be needed, but these are the next bits of information needed to figure out if and where emergency fuel could be forward staged.

As the dangers of earthquake and wildfires grow, we cannot keep kicking the can down the road. Delay will be deadly, economically devastating, and unmanageably costly.

Please vote YES on HB 4032.

Thank you,

Nikki Mandell

On behalf of the CEI Hub Task Force