

Submitter: Thomas Karwaki
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4032

Testimony of University Park Neighborhood Association
to House Committee on Emergency Management and Veterans

Support for HB 4032 – CEI Hub Fuels Diversification

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Lewis & Watanabe, and Members of the Committee.
My name is Thomas Karwaki. I am the President and Chair of the University Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA), a 501c3 non-profit. These comments have been approved by the UPNA Board.

UPNA is located slightly east and across the Willamette River from the Critical Energy Hub (CEI-Hub) facilities. The University of Portland lies entirely within the UPNA boundaries. Approximately 10,000 persons live within University Park. The CEI-Hub is a series of fossil fuel storage tanks along with other chemicals located on the southern bank of the Willamette River. The CEI Hub stores over 90% of the fossil fuel used in the state of Oregon and the site was built with dredged soil. As a result, the land will liquify during a seismic activity, and the tanks may either spill or catch fire. This could lead to a wildfire in the adjacent Forrest Park, a City of Portland public park. Up to 30,000 persons would be immediately at risk of serious injury.

The University Park Neighborhood Association strongly supports HB 4032 and urges this committee to pass it. HB 4032 directs the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to study and report on potential emergency fuel storage sites that are publicly owned and that are close to major transportation routes and that are consistent with the 2024 Oregon Energy Security Plan. The research done to implement this bill will allow future investments to be made to disperse fuel storage.