

Sen. Chuck Riley

Chair, Senate Committee on General Government
And Emergency Preparedness

Dear Chair Riley, Vice Chair Fred Girod,
Sen. Boquist, Sen. Golden, and Sen. Monnes Anderson

We are writing to support the passage of SB 1537 which will come before your committee this Wednesday, February 5. We specifically are requesting enactment of the funding (\$7.5 million) and bonding authority for the ShakeAlert early warning system as contained in this bill. We are writing on behalf of the City Club of Portland Earthquake Resilience Advocacy Committee.

The need for this system has been demonstrated and documented by Professor Toomey of the University of Oregon, whom you will hear from in testimony. In addition, we are specifically recommending this system because it will be an integral feature of a seismically resilient Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) hub on the banks of the Willamette River in North Portland. Building out the ShakeAlert system is one of the central recommendations of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) in order to protect life, the environment, and the State economy by making the CEI fuel storage and handling infrastructure seismically resilient. The details are contained in OSSPAC's new report, "*CEI Hub Mitigation Strategies*" (December 31, 2019). We believe this report is exhaustive and visionary.

In February of 2017, the members of the City Club of Portland overwhelming approved the report "*Big Steps before the Big One*" from its research committee studying Portland's state of seismic resilience. Several of us served on that research committee. Two of the approved recommendations were to mitigate the lack of resilience of the CEI hub and secondly to bring it under the authority of a State regulatory agency. While the ShakeAlert early warning system was not studied by the committee at that time, we feel that it will be a critical component in the mitigation plan for the CEI and strongly urge enactment of the funds to build out this system. We note that ShakeAlert would be statewide and part of the west coast regional system already in place in California and Washington. Thus the benefits extend much further than the CEI mitigation we are interested in.

We also commend Prof. Toomey for taking on this work and the University of Oregon for administering the funds to be granted. Since the technology is already well developed, we describe this as a service to Portland and to the State rather than a more typical grant for university research.

Tom Dyke, Anne Castleton, Rob Fullmer, Barnes Ellis
City Club of Portland Earthquake Resilience Advocacy Committee