

Submitter: Brett Baylor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1567

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Findley and members of the committee --

I'm writing in strong support of SB 1567.

As someone who has spent quite a bit of time around our Critical Energy Infrastructure zone along the north Willamette, it's easy to see from walking around the area the poor shape a lot of our fuel structures and supporting buildings seem to be in. None of the land you will be standing upon existed prior to dredging the Willamette to create this zone. Yet, this is where our entire State's fuel supply is stored and distributed. And, we really have limited knowledge of the structural integrity of the storage and exactly what is stored within.

The City of Portland has been trying to engage with the facility owners to determine the level of risk we may be facing but they are largely ignored by businesses involved. We need the State's help to plan for a major Cascadia subduction zone event.

For any of you who haven't had the opportunity to visit the site, a field trip is in order. You will see very large capacity and aging units which hold the gasoline, propane and other chemicals and solvents we use daily, packed into a thin riverside zone right next to homes and the nation's largest municipal park. It doesn't take a lot of imagination to see what would likely occur under major earthquake conditions -- highly combustible fuels catching fire and spreading to homes and businesses in Linnton, large swathes of toxic chemicals floating downstream, and severe fire threat within Forest Park.

We need more information. SB 1567 will give us that.