

Submitter: Michael Hall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1567

Subject: SB1567 - Critical Energy Infrastructure Seismic Risk Assessment and Remediation

To: Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Findlay, members of the Energy and Environment committee

Quoting Oregon earthquake expert Dr. Chris Goldfinger, "The future occurrence of a Great earthquake in Cascadia of Magnitude 8-9.2 is not a theory, it's a certainty. This is the subject of much of my research, and has been known for over two decades now. In the science community there simply is no doubt. The last such event was 322 years ago, and was a magnitude 9 that delivered a damaging tsunami all along the coast of the Pacific Northwest, as told in Native American oral histories, and also did damage in Japan. The average repeat time for these events at the latitude of Portland is ~ 340 years, about the same as the time since the last one."

I have been present for several earthquakes in my life, the most powerful being the Loma Prieta Earthquake of 1989. I have seen the damage done by a Magnitude 7 quake. The inevitable Big One here in Oregon will be tens to hundreds of times more powerful and destructive, especially on soft fill like that which exists under the Linnton Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub. The potential harm to our public health and environment is unfathomable. To consider it apocalyptic is not hyperbole.

We moved to Portland in 1995 and I have been an active volunteer with the Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET) program with the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management. NETs are trained to organize our neighborhoods in preparation for and response to disasters such as earthquakes. But all the planning and equipment in the world will not protect us if the fuel storage tanks on the Willamette River explode and the river becomes a raging inferno.

I am grateful to Sen Dembrow for his work on SB 1567, and to the many legislators who are co-sponsoring the bill. Please give your unanimous support for SB 1567 in the committee hearing on February 7th. We must begin the process of creating an energy security plan for the tank farm and a DEQ seismic vulnerability assessment is an important first step. The time is long past due for that to happen.

Thank you for making Oregon a safer place to live.

Michael Hall
NE Portland

