



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 102-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 7, 2022

To: [House Energy and Environment Committee.](#)
Senator Kate Lieber, Chair

Re: [SB 1567-1](#) - Energy Infrastructure Resilience - **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has strong positions on air quality, land use, water quality, protecting our coastal resources, public health, and climate change. The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that all levels of government share the responsibility of coordinating, implementing and funding an effective program to mitigate Oregon's earthquake and tsunami hazards. Priority must be given to mitigation that protects human life and safeguards critical life-support systems. When siting critical facilities, seismic factors such as severe ground shaking, liquefaction, massive landslide potential, and subsidence should be considered.

A 9.0 magnitude Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake would have huge impacts throughout the state. We believe that SB 1567-1 is a good start on mitigating one of the worst of the possible impacts: damage to the bulk oil and liquid fuel storage facilities. The most vulnerable are the large number of tanks in the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub in Portland.

The CEI Hub is situated on soil subject to liquefaction during a large Cascadia earthquake or even a lower magnitude earthquake on the Portland Hills fault next to the Hub, as documented in the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries ([DOGAMI Report](#)). It is likely many of the tanks are old and will burst in a seismic event, leading to massive oil spills into the Willamette River, possibly reaching the Pacific Ocean. This could cause statewide disruptions, because 90% of the state's fuel is stored at the CEI Hub, and a major disaster there would coincide with an increased need for fuel for responding to the larger earthquake emergency.

Portland could expect fires and serious degradation of air quality. Because of the threat it poses to the people of Portland, the League of Women Voters of Portland has been following the CEI Hub and its seismic risks for several years, including opposition to the expansion of Zenith facilities.

The League appreciates that the burden is put on the owners and operators to conduct a seismic vulnerability assessment and implement a seismic risk mitigation implementation plan approved by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); they must also pay DEQ for its costs of reviewing the implementation plans less any federal funds received by the department. The -1 Amendment allows DEQ to provide grants or other financial assistance for infrastructure improvements if federal funds are provided to the department for that purpose.

We are pleased to see that the -1 Amendment protects employees providing information on possible violation of laws or regulations or reporting on public health or environmental safety

risks. We also support the inclusion in the Amendment of involving DOGAMI in rules adoption for conducting the seismic assessments.

We agree that the Oregon Department of Energy should be required to develop an energy security plan evaluating “the state’s ability to recover from physical threats, including a magnitude 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, and cybersecurity threats.” We support the need for an annual report to the legislature.

Although the primary focus has been on the CEI hub, we agree that the energy security plan needs to evaluate the seismic resilience of all the existing fuel storage facilities, including the one in Eugene, and mitigate barriers to implementing a geographically distributed fuel network. We appreciate that consultation is required with many other agencies, local and tribal governments, utilities, fuel suppliers, and communities adjacent to potential locations for emergency or expanded fuel storage.

We are glad to see a mention of state programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with respect to improving disaster resilience, however, we are disappointed that there is no acknowledgement that because of electrification and other reductions in the use of fossil fuels, the need for keeping as many tanks will be reduced.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. We urge your support for SB 1567 -1.



Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President



Claudia Keith
Climate Emergency Coordinator



Kathy Moyd, Julie Chapman
Climate Emergency Portfolio