



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

SB 1567-1 – Energy Infrastructure – Seismic Vulnerability

Testimony by Terry J. Harris, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter Legislative Committee
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment - February 7, 2022

The Sierra Club Oregon Chapter submits this **testimony in favor of SB 1567-1**, a bill as amended which would require bulk oil and liquid fuel terminal facilities to submit a seismic vulnerability assessment and a seismic risk implementation plan to the Department of Environmental Quality to address the catastrophic potential of fuel spills in a significant earthquake.

Given the location and age of these facilities, and their proximity to the seismically active Cascadia Subduction Zone, the potential seismic risks to the Columbia River, Willamette River, Oregon’s coastal zone, and the surrounding communities are enormous. If storage infrastructure was to fail, the surrounding community would face imminent health hazards, and millions of gallons of fuel could flow into waterways. A spill would have serious consequences for the health of the local community and the integrity and biodiversity of local bodies of water and ecosystems. At the very least, an emergency cleanup of a massive oil spill in the wake of a major earthquake crisis would likely be beyond the immediate capacity of limited responder resources. Relying solely on response is unfair to responders, and unfair to taxpayers who will foot the bill.

It is important that both Oregon regulators and owners and operators of these facilities understand the seismic risks and begin the work to mitigate such risks. This legislation represents the modest, yet critical first step in protecting the community and the environment in the large earthquake that will someday occur. We thank the sponsors and the committee for bringing this bill forward, and we urge a favorable vote.

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club represents some 63,000 members and supporters as the state chapter of the oldest conservation organization in the United States.

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