



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

Oregon Emergency Management

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To: Governor Kate Brown, Chair Senator Kate Lieber, Vice-Chair Senator Lynn Findley,
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC)

Subject: SB 1567 - Requires owners or operators of bulk oils and liquid fuels terminals to conduct and submit to DEQ seismic vulnerability assessments and risk mitigation implementation plan.

The mission of OSSPAC is to improve public understanding of seismic risk, exposure and vulnerability; promote the reduction and mitigation of earthquake and tsunami impacts in Oregon; and advise the Governor and Legislature on these issues. OSSPAC supports the passage of SB 1567.

In 2018 OSSPAC was tasked by the Governor and the State Resilience Officer to conduct a 15-month study of Oregon's Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub. This is the single largest concentration of Bulk Terminal operators in the state and accounts for over 90% of the liquid fuel coming into Oregon. OSSPAC's major finding was that the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub is a serious threat to safety and welfare, the environment, and Oregon's recovery after a large event like a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

SB 1567 is a critically important first step toward better understanding and mitigating the risks posed by aging bulk storage tanks and facilities, many of which were constructed well before the seismic risk and soil vulnerabilities were understood. Importantly the bill:

Requires Comprehensive Seismic Vulnerability Assessments and Risk Mitigation Plans Preparing vulnerability assessments is the first step in understanding and quantifying the vulnerability of these facilities. Implementing mitigation measures that represent state of the art seismic design, research and technology will be essential for ensuring the future safety and resilience of this infrastructure.

Designates the Department of Environmental Quality to Provide Oversight and Rulemaking Authority It is important that one agency, with appropriate input from other partners, be tasked with establishing rules and ensuring oversight. DEQ is the agency best able to spearhead this effort.

Directs the State Department of Energy to Develop an Energy Security Plan Energy security is crucial to a resilient Oregon and to recovery from a major seismic event. Considerations for increasing the geographic diversity fuel storage, establishing emergency distribution points, and partnering with private-sector companies to achieve goals are all important factors.

Establishes a Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund This provides a funding mechanism to cover the main activities proposed in the bill.

SB 1567 is a vital step in ensuring Oregon's energy resilience and will help our state avert the potential human and environmental disaster posed by the CEI hub in a significant seismic event. OSSPAC supports its passage. For an in-depth discussion and other recommendations regarding energy resilience, please see OSSPAC's recent report, **CEI Hub Mitigation Strategies - Increasing Fuel Resilience to Survive Cascadia**, December 31, 2019.

Cc: Mike Harryman, State Resilience Officer