

**Paul L Evans**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 20**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 7, 2022

Senator Kate Lieber  
Chair, Committee on Energy and the Environment  
Oregon State Senate  
Oregon Capitol Building  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ref: SB 1567

Chair Lieber:

Senate Bill 1567 is among the most important pieces of legislation we will consider during the 2022 Legislative Session. The Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub is a catastrophe waiting to happen. For decades senior public safety leaders have recognized the need to harden and secure the facilities providing nearly 90% of all liquid fuels used in Oregon (including almost 100% of jet fuel for Portland International Airport) but allowed inertia to defeat preparedness. Though this measure does far less than I believe we need to do in terms of shared private/public investment in equipment, facilities, and training improvements, it is a beginning that warrants immediate passage – implementation with all deliberate speed.

Over the past two decades, I have served our nation, state, and communities as a crisis manager. In uniform, I was a master-rated Air Battle Manager with responsibilities for securing high-value areas and spaces. As a senior policy advisor, private consultant, and more recently as the past Chair of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, I know the challenges involved in making real progress in securing the CEI Hub. It is a complex problem requiring stakeholders to invest talent, time, and treasure – it is a shared problem with shared responsibility. Unfortunately, we have allowed the complexities to dictate an unspoken policy of benign neglect. We have turned our heads away and hoped for the best. This has never been a rational or reasonable course of action. Now we have an opportunity to reevaluate our circumstances and take real action.

The past three years have demonstrated to all of us the consequences of allowing prevention, mitigation, and preparedness to be forgotten. Though we have navigated an economic recession, global pandemic, and wildfires of historical scale – we have done so despite our planning, not because of it.

Had we taken the safety and security of our people and place more seriously, we likely would have prevented significant loss of life and destruction of properties. There will always be excuses for pushing responsible emergency planning into the future, but it is never without consequence or cost. SB 1567 is a necessary step forward that is three decades in the making. I urge your support on this mission-critical preparedness effort.

Respectfully,

Oregon House of Representatives  
District 20