



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
From: State Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D., House District 33

Date: February 7, 2022

Subject: SB 1567

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Dr. Maxine Dexter, State Representative for House District 33, encompassing NW Portland and NE Washington County. I am grateful for this opportunity to request your full support for SB 1567, the Central Energy Infrastructure Seismic Vulnerability Bill.

Portland's Central Energy Infrastructure Hub is located in Northwest Portland along the Willamette River and is contained entirely in my district. Our neighborhood looks directly over the hub. We can hear the sounds of work happening, we smell the fumes and see the particulate matter from the air that settles on our porches. The threat to our homes and our families is clear to us in HD33. Today, I share with you why all Oregonians should care about passing this bill.

The CEI Hub contains [630 tanks](#), 415 of which are actively used to hold over 150 different types of fuels. With an average tank filled at 67% capacity, there are about 233 million gallons of fuel in the location at one time. This is nearly 90% of the state's liquid fuel supply and is a critical piece of infrastructure for the entirety of Oregon. If the hub fails, our state loses the vast majority of its fuel supply. Precariously, the hub sits within the Cascadia Subduction Zone, with many tanks now over 100 years old, built on river fill that will liquify in an eight or higher magnitude earthquake. 266 of the tanks were built prior to 1993 and are expected to release between 50-100% of their contents in the quake versus tanks built after 2004, which are projected to release [less than 10%](#) of their contents. If we fail to act, it is anticipated that [94 to 194 millions gallons of fuel](#) and oil would be released into the ground and the Willamette river, rivaling the largest marine oil spill in history, the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

A spill this size will have devastating environmental and public health impacts - fire's risk to people, Forest Park, businesses and homes; toxic smoke and fumes that will cause nearly immediate harm and

even more over time; contamination of our groundwater, devastation to our river ecosystem, the list of harm goes on. These impacts will not be just on NW Portland, but the [entire Portland Metro area](#) and beyond. I am a physician who is a lung specialist and we know very clearly that smoke and fumes have immediate and potentially deadly impacts on the health of the people who breathe the dirty air. A plume of toxic gas and fumes the size of what we would see with such a disaster would travel, following the wind, having immediate and long term health impacts - increases in asthma, strokes, pneumonia, heart disease and cancer.

I am here as a representative for my district and this matters very deeply to us. Val Aitchison, a local earthquake preparedness leader and advocate for over a decade in HD 33 said, "The overwhelming fear is that the earthquake would trigger oil spills and fires that would destroy the nearby residential areas. The enormity of this risk is astounding and this law would be a critical step toward preparing for the inevitable disaster." We can create resilience and dramatically decrease these risks by taking action investing in tank, pipeline, and terminal seismic upgrades now. We can prevent much of this by taking action. Senate bill 1567 is the first step towards this work.

Senate bill 1567 will give the DEQ authority to require fuel storage facilities to assess their seismic vulnerability and implement mitigation plans to reduce risks. Newer tanks means significantly less storage failure. This bill would also require the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to develop an Energy Security Plan that recommends steps to improve community resilience by increasing geographic diversity of fuel storage capacity. SB 1567 will cover terminals with a combined capacity of 2 million gallons or more that are located throughout the state, at this time that includes Portland and Eugene storage facilities.

Thank you for your time today and your dedication to the health and safety of Oregonians. Please support SB 1567 with a *do pass recommendation*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maxine Dexter', written in a cursive style.

Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D.
House District 33 (NW Portland and NE Washington County)