



February 7, 2022

Chair Lieber and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Sharon Meieran, I am a Multnomah County Commissioner and I serve as the Board liaison to the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization. I'm also an emergency physician. I am here to testify in support of SB 1567.

The CEI Hub is located in my district, and I have been horrified by the risks posed by the CEI Hub for a long time. In 2019, I sponsored a resolution to our Board that supports exploring ways the fossil fuel industry can be required to bear the full cost of damages caused by transporting, storing, or using fossil fuels.

I then, in partnership with Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, secured County funding to assess seismic risk assessment, which is the final report that was released today.

Now that we have been able to quantify the damages and associated costs when the CEI Hub is damaged during a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake, the work begins to protect Oregonians.

Because, while the CEI Hub is located in Portland, this is not just a Portland problem. Over 90% of the state's fuel supply, and 100% of the state's jet fuel, goes through or is stored at the CEI Hub. If this storage facility is damaged, the entire state would not have access to fuel. The Columbia River would be decimated. The environmental damage would reverberate throughout our state. Oregon Tribes would lose precious cultural resources. And the \$359 million to \$2.6 billion cost in damages - by the most conservative estimate - would be borne by our Oregon economy.

I believe Senator Dembrow and I have both lost sleep over the CEI Hub. I pass by it regularly and cringe - it already looks like a post-apocalyptic landscape, and a Cascadia subduction zone quake will make an apocalypse a reality.

As I called for in my resolution, and as directed through SB 1567, we need to hold industry to account to improve the seismic resilience of their tanks at the Hub. I also agree with directing the Department of Energy to develop a Seismic Security Plan so we are better prepared. Oregon is one of the least seismically prepared states in the country.

Community members and emergency responders have been sounding the alarm for years about the risks associated with the CEI Hub. EcoNorthwest's report validates these concerns and quantifies them - let's not wait for catastrophe to strike before we do something. I urge you to pass SB 1567, it is a PROACTIVE step that can save lives, prevent an environmental catastrophe, preserve invaluable cultural resources, and prevent the devastation of our state's economy.

Thank you for your time today.

Sharon Meieran, MD, JD
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 1