

February 7, 2022

Senator Kate Lieber, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 1567-1 - Energy Infrastructure Resilience - Support

Dear Chair Lieber and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of SB 1567. We live on the west bank of the Willamette, not far from the Critical Energy Infrastructure where 90% of the state's liquid fuels are stored in tanks, some of which are over 100 years old. The consequences of a major earthquake on this fuel storage zone have been described by experts as a potential "Fukushima-level disaster". The triggering event is not a question of "if", it's only a question of "when" and many seismologists consider it already overdue.

The magnitude of the risk is almost unimaginable for those near CEI zone, but will also affect the entire state. The likely fire and toxic fumes would overwhelm first responders that would already be struggling with the widespread other consequences of the earthquake. The short and long term health, environmental and economic consequences would be severe.

A major seismic event won't wait for us to address this critical infrastructure issue. We need policies that advance our collective resilience while we transition to clean energy and this bill is a good first step toward that end. I strongly urge the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment to support SB 1567 with a do pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

Michael Mitton
NW Portland