



February 8, 2022

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

Chair Lieber and Members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee,

Families for Climate is a Portland-based climate justice policy & educational organization, with hundreds of parent and youth members. We strongly support SB 1567, which would require energy terminal owners to submit comprehensive seismic vulnerability assessments and risk mitigation plans to the Oregon DEQ. On behalf of our children and grandchildren, we must do everything possible to prevent a catastrophic fossil fuel disaster anywhere in Oregon, not just Columbia, Multnomah, and Lane counties.

We encourage the Committee to consider preparing for not just a one-time “Deep Water Horizon”-scale acute disaster, but for the ongoing crisis of reliance on fossil fuels. It is time for the Oregon Department of Energy to include a post-bulk fossil fuel scenario in the “statewide Energy Security Plan to better prepare for a seismic event, protect local communities, and align with Oregon’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.” We are so immersed in this 200-year emergency that it seems normal.

Finally, we feel that this legislation could go farther in thwarting new bulk fuel infrastructure development. This bill attempts to help Oregon catch up to a massive risk that has long gone unmanaged, but it doesn’t prevent *new* facilities in seismically unstable zones, effectively expanding risk. With strong legislation, the State *could* preemptively stop new development in the Hub, instead of waiting for municipalities like Portland to stick their necks out and try. Our organization has been very public about its opposition to transloading facilities within the CEI Hub that draw oil-by-rail through our low-moderate income neighborhoods, store it in a risky liquefaction zone, and then ship fuels to the world market. It’s currently all-too-easy for multinational energy companies to exploit our legal loopholes and feign environmental intentions. We hope our laws can be shored up in the near future.

In summary, SB 1567 is an excellent first step requiring reporting and planning by entities operating in the CEI Hub – keep this bill strong! Please include a post-carbon scenario in the Statewide Energy Security Plan and be sure that the protections/regulations and the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund cover the *entire state*. We look forward to helping to strengthen regulations that further reduce risk in the future.

Thank you for your deliberations on this critical issue.

Families for Climate

[CEI Risk Assessment Highlights](#): A magnitude 8 or 9 Cascadia Subduction Zone quake could trigger releases, fires and explosions at the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub along Highway 30. 397 tanks built on a liquefaction zone are at risk of rupturing; they hold over 150 different types of materials each with a unique chemical composition. 91% of tanks were built prior to 1993 or are missing information on year built. Total estimated potential release ranges from 94.6 million to 193.7 million gallons. Approximately 57 percent of the total potential releases would be released onto ground and 43 percent may flow into the Willamette River. This looming disaster would result in loss of life, major health hazards and catastrophic damage to our river communities, rendering it unusable for disaster relief, navigation industry and severely ecologically compromised.