

Submitter: Jreyesha Brannon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1567

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee,

While I am unable to endorse this bill on behalf of the environmental justice committee I represent (due to timing), I want to personally express my support for SB 1567. The Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub in Portland has been the topic of numerous meetings, coalitions, and discussions between community members in Portland. While the topic doesn't always reference Environmental Justice or frontline community impacts, it is with this lens that I am supporting this bill.

It is well known that the CEI hub is poorly prepared for a pending Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and it will have catastrophic impacts to our communities. Numerous organizations with subject matter experts in geology, engineering, and safety have identified the CEI hub as a huge risk, prone to liquefaction and significant damage. While the impacts will be widespread, frontline communities (Black, indigenous, people of color, and low income) are those who will disproportionately face these impacts, specifically with regard to rapid response and resiliency. To better prepare our communities, a bill like SB 1567 is an important step towards a more resilient Oregon. While there is so much more that is needed to ensure frontline communities will be protected and provided adequate resiliency planning in an emergency like a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, SB 1567 provides important regulatory planning that is too important not to pass. I strongly urge you to pass SB 1567.

J'reyesha Brannon