Testimony to Joint Committee on Transportation
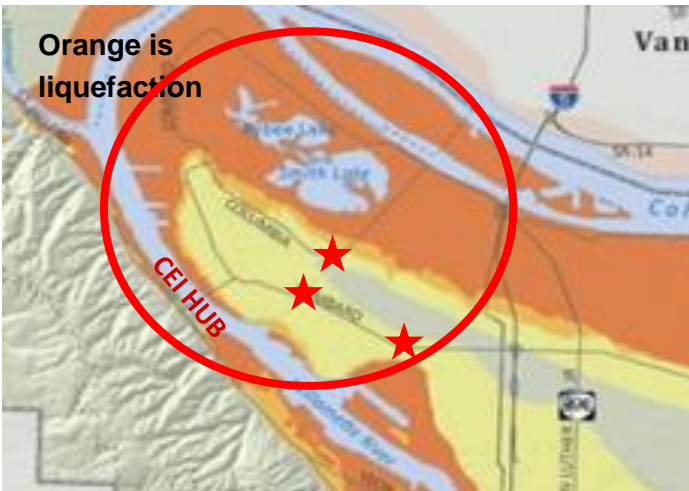## Donna L Cohen, St Johns neighborhood, Portland   June 4, 2024

I am here today to ask you to keep Portland's freight system working and <u>to beg you to potentially save the lives of 30,000 people</u>! We live or work in north Portland on the northern part of the peninsula, in the Port of Portland Rivergate Industrial area and in the lower-income, diverse, communities of St Johns, Cathedral Park, Portsmouth and University Park.

When the earthquake comes liquefaction will impact us on three sides of the peninsula. **On the fourth side, the bridges over the railroad "cut" (a 100' ditch bisecting the peninsula) at Columbia and Lombard, and the railroad tunnel under Lombard, all of which are over 100 years old, <u>WILL COLLAPSE</u>!**

WE WILL BE <u>COMPLETELY</u> CUT OFF FROM PORTLAND FOR AN <u>INDEFINITE</u> AMOUNT OF TIME.

IF YOU HELP US, we can make our official "emergency routes" actually functional - to allow egress and ingress.

- To allow families to reunite
- To allow for freight movement
- To allow medical responses
- To allow supplies to be replenished
- **To allow evacuation if a toxic cloud comes from the Critical Energy Infrastructure tank farms across the river, only a half mile away**.

We need:
 1. **Match money for <u>Columbia</u>.** PBOT is ready to apply for a grant <u>when they have "match" funds</u>. The PBOT budget cannot handle the amount needed, approximately 20% of the estimated $57 million required. **PBOT needs the match money!**

2. <u>**Lombard**</u> **needs persuasion by state elected officials for the heads of PBOT, ODOT and representatives from BNSF to collaborate on solutions. This collaboration will take staff time and, thus, financing. We also need funding for a feasibility study.**

PLEASE HELP RECTIFY THIS IMPENDING DISASTER. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE A SACRIFICE ZONE, LIKE AREAS OF NEW ORLEANS AFTER KATRINA!

Thank you!
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NoPoEmergencyRoute@gmail.com *Put Emergency Route in Subject: and name/contact info in message*