



February 7, 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,

The Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization ([RDPO](#)) supports passage of Oregon Senate Bill 1567. RDPO is a five-county region spanning Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington counties in Oregon, and Clark County in Washington. Our mission is to create a more secure and disaster resilient region.

The Policy Committee, composed of local elected officials from across the region, has been studying the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub to understand the risks and vulnerabilities of this six-mile stretch of industrial fuel and chemical tank farms running along the east side of OR 30 and encompassing the Linton community on the Willamette River. The potentially severe impact of various disaster scenarios, including a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake or other lesser but significant earthquakes, industrial accidents, or intentional sabotage would likely result in release of stored fuels or toxic chemicals into the air, water or on the ground. The Committee recognizes the complex and compounding threats to human health and safety, the environment, transportation, and the economy should a natural or man-made event trigger a substantial containment failure, and those impacts would be experienced across the five-county region and beyond. Furthermore, fuel supplies will be critical for recovery following a Cascadia event or other disruption to fuel supplies. Resilient storage infrastructure could ensure fuel supplies for restoration of our infrastructure and other life safety needs during disaster response.

The Committee has previously supported the recommendations of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC), in their 2019 [CEI Hub Mitigation Strategies Report](#). RDPO Policy Committee supports addressing the primary finding of the report:

“The Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub is a major threat to safety, environment, and recovery after a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake on par with the 2011 Fukushima nuclear meltdown in Japan. Owners of privately-owned liquid fuel tanks at the Hub need to be compelled to seismically strengthen their infrastructure. No state agency [currently] is a perfect fit to be designated as the regulatory authority over these facilities.”

Senate Bill 1567 proposes key policy directives and investments built upon the OSSPAC findings. Specifically, RDPO supports amending ORS chapter 468 to establish the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as the state agency with regulatory oversight of fuel and chemical storage facilities with specific responsibilities for:

- Inspecting infrastructure,
- Ensuring owners have a seismic vulnerability assessment and corollary approved seismic mitigation plans, and
- Establishing standard civil penalties and assessing fines against violators for failed compliance with relevant Oregon Administrative Rules or Statutes.

Additionally, RDPO supports Oregon Department of Energy be directed to:

- Develop an Energy Security Plan aligned with the Oregon Fuel Action Plan with recommendations increasing the geographic diversity of fuel storage capacity in Oregon to increase seismic resilience,
- Require ODOE provide regular updates to the legislature on progress towards implementing the Energy Security Plan, and
- Create a fund to support the Energy Security Plan to receive federal funds that have already been awarded.

The RDPO urges passage of SB 1567 to protect human health and safety, the environment, and secure a safe and effective energy supply across Oregon and our multi-state region. For more information, please contact Beth Crane, RDPO Interim Director at Elizabeth.crane@portlandoregon.gov.

Thank you for your consideration,

Vancouver Mayor McEnerny-Ogle, and RDPO Policy Committee Chair
Columbia County Commissioner Magruder, and RDPO Policy Committee Vice Chair
Multnomah County Commissioner Meieran
Portland City Commissioner Hardesty
Port of Portland CEO Dan Pippenger
Beaverton Mayor Beaty
Fairview City Councilor Lawton
Clark County Commissioner Lentz
Metro Chair Patterson

Cc: Senator Dembrow, Oregon SD 23
Mike Harryman, Oregon State Resilience Officer
RDPO Steering Committee