



February 6, 2024

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee:

I am Douglas Toomey, Director of the Oregon Hazards Lab and a Professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Oregon. I am writing to urge your support of HB 4044.

HB 4044 would require the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to study the risks posed to the State of Oregon by toxic fumes that could be released from industrial facilities during a significant earthquake. This is a necessary step toward improving our region's resiliency and it should be one of many steps to ensure that the State of Oregon is prepared for natural disasters. The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee (OSSPAC), for example, published a report in 2019 entitled *CEI Hub Mitigation Strategies, Increasing Fuel Resilience to Survive Cascadia*. That report makes a number of recommendations that are consistent with HB 4044. Among the recommendations, the report recommended enacting legislation to incentivize a pilot project to implement ShakeAlert at the CEI Hub. To my knowledge, there is considerable room for improving the number of lifeline infrastructure providers that take advantage of the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning system.

In the Portland area specifically, the Cascadia Subduction Zone and active faults within the Portland metro area pose significant risks to lifeline infrastructure and the public. The Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub, in particular, is a major threat to safety, environment, and recovery after a significant earthquake. A recent report published by the Institute for Sustainable Solutions at Portland State University, entitled *Risk of Earthquake-Induced Hazardous Materials Releases in Multnomah County, Oregon: Two Scenarios Examined* addresses well how earthquakes could damage industrial facilities which store or handle hazardous materials and pose significant threats to over 45,000 people that live and work near the CEI Hub.

Thank you for supporting these initiatives and working to keep Oregonians safe and to increase our resiliency to future damaging earthquakes. We look forward to partnering with this committee in the future as we continue to find ways to create a more resilient Oregon.

Sincerely,

Prof. Doug Toomey,
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