

OREGON PSR

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

February 28, 2025

To: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Subject: Support HB 2151

Dear Chair Lively, Vice–Chair Gamba, Vice–Chair Bobby Levy, and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment,

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Oregon PSR) is an organization of over 2,000 health professionals and public health advocates working to address the gravest threats to human health and survival. One of the gravest threats to health and safety facing Oregonians is the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake in the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub. For this reason, we are submitting testimony in support of HB 2151. This bill expands the ways monies in the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund may be received and used.

According to the Multnomah County CEI Hub report, “The health costs of exposure to toxins for nearby people and response workers is \$121 million to \$249 million for both acute and chronic conditions.” The resources needed to respond to the consequences of a CSZ earthquake will be urgent and must be delivered as quickly as possible. For example, clean-up responses for an oil spill are time-sensitive to prevent the runoff of volatile substances into water resources. In Oregon, the water resources most threatened are the Willamette River and Columbia River, places of significant value and purpose for wildlife habitat, recreation, subsistence, ceremonies, commerce, and more. Expanding the ways monies in the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund may be received and used will be essential for fuel-related disaster preparedness and response in the state. Oregon PSR strongly urges you to support HB 2151.

Sincerely,



Samantha Hernandez



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Healthy Climate Program Director



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