

Submitter: Daniel Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

A major natural disaster is not a matter of if, but when. For the 20,000 residents and workers on Portland's north peninsula, the risk is especially severe. The area sits just a mile from the CEI Hub, which stores 90% of Oregon's fuel—right in a known seismic zone. In the event of a major earthquake, this community will be cut off from food, medical help, and emergency services.

We are requesting \$5 million so the City of Portland can complete essential design work to pursue federal funding. These funds would support the replacement of a key bridge—one currently designated as part of an emergency route—that is expected to collapse during a major seismic event. Even with funding, it will take years to construct a seismically resilient crossing. With a 1-in-3 chance of a major quake in the next 35 years, this work must begin immediately.

Without action, families may be separated, emergency vehicles won't be able to reach those in need, and basic survival needs like medical care, food, and infrastructure repair will be inaccessible. In the worst-case scenario, a toxic release from the CEI Hub could leave the entire area trapped.

This is not just a local issue—it is a matter of statewide responsibility and environmental justice. If the state concentrates 90% of its fuel supply in a single vulnerable neighborhood, it must also ensure that neighborhood has a viable way out in an emergency. Any community facing this level of risk deserves a safe and reliable evacuation route.