



Testimony to House Committee on Emergency Management and Veterans Support for HB 4032 – CEI Hub Fuels Diversification

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Lewis & Watanabe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Daniel Frye and I am submitting these comments on behalf of MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and preparing Oregon for success in a clean energy future.

My family and I live in North and Northeast Portland and we would be profoundly negatively affected by a collapse of the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub.

I am writing today in strong support of HB 4032, which takes a small, but critical, step forward in the long process of protecting Oregon against a catastrophic collapse of the Hub. This bill directs the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to study and report on potential emergency fuel storage sites. Developing a comprehensive plan for ensuring that emergency responders and recovery teams have essential fuel in wake of a disaster is critical and the first step is to provide a list of geographically dispersed sites that can host emergency fuel supplies. The criteria for inclusion includes sites that:

- Are suited to support population islands that form as a result of destruction of roads & bridges;
- Are under the control of the state of Oregon;
- Are proximate to the highest risks and highest needs in the event of disaster;
- Are proximate to priority and ancillary transportation routes across the state;
- Are consistent with the 2024 Oregon Energy Security Plan.

Each of these elements of the bill is a critical and necessary component of the final action plan.

Of particular importance is the explicit direction in the bill to increase geographical distribution of the fuel storage system. One of the reasons the CEI-Hub was developed in a zone now known to undergo liquefaction under intense stress (such as “The Big One”) is that the dangers of liquefaction were not well understood until the current CEI-Hub site was well past any reasonable fix. Given that we do not know what we do not know, it is prudent to design our emergency fuel system to be built in a distributed fashion on geographically diverse locations to hedge our bets.

I strongly urge support for HB 4032 by the Committee.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Frye, PhD
MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together)