

A note from your neighbor, Joe Purkey.

You've heard from Donna many times, so I'm taking a turn to speak to you all.

It's critical that you take 5-10 minutes of action now (again or for the first time) to ensure passage of House Bill 2749 so we can get a safe route out of St. Johns. In order to get it passed by our state legislators, we need them to hear from as many people as possible. We've already got a lot of positive momentum, but all the work so far is nothing without the vote succeeding! This Oregon legislative session ends in mid-June, so we have precious little time to get this moved out of *two* committees and sway the votes we need in our favor. Action is needed within the next two weeks (by 5/23/2025); sooner is better.

**"What difference can I make? I'm just one person and I don't have time to get involved."**

It doesn't take much from any one person! Send an email to the names below [*you can copy/paste the addresses*]. That's it! The most important message is to move HB 2749 forward. There are some additional talking points attached for you to use and make sure to include at least one sentence about why it's important to **you**. Are you a parent? Business owner? 2nd/3rd/4th generation resident? A teacher? Include that, too! A personal note is more likely to be read!

**"I've already emailed the committees. Should I write again? What else can I do to help?"**

The effort people have put in so far has been great and it's helped a lot. With how many competing interests there are across the state, we need this issue to cut through the noise by coming from as many voices as possible. Here are three ideas to increase your impact.

- City councilors and the mayor all *talk to state legislators regularly* about city priorities, so they need to hear from us, too! If city leaders don't say this is a priority, why should the state make it one? Send an email to our city councilors and the mayor (listed below).
- Until now we've only contacted the Chairs of the two committees that need to move the bill to a full vote. Let's contact *all* these committee members now. Emails below.
- State legislators from across the state will ultimately be voting on this because it's state level funding. Ask your friends and family across the state to send an email to express their concern to their legislator and urge them to push for a vote for HB2749. They can look their state elected official up here: <https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=fd070b56c975456ea2a25f7e3f4289d1> If they want to do more, ask them to also email all the committee members below!

Thank you for getting involved in this critical campaign to make St. Johns safer!

-Joe Purkey, parent/resident/business owner in St. Johns

*Leadership of legislature, Ways and Means, plus members of the Joint Committee on Transportation, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development, and the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety: [Leadership/Chairs in **bold**]*

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**Portland leaders:**

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**County leaders:**

[mult.chair@multco.us](mailto:mult.chair@multco.us); [district2@multco.us](mailto:district2@multco.us)

**Talking points:**

- Families will be separated
- No emergency vehicles in/out
- No medical help
- No food resupply
- No repair trucks
- In the worst-case scenario, if a toxic cloud comes from the CEI Hub -WE WILL BE TRAPPED!
- This is a STATE issue and an issue of environmental justice. We live under the threat of the CEI Hub, which holds 90% of the fuel for the whole state of Oregon! If we are going to be under that threat the least the state can do is provide us an emergency route out for when it explodes!
- Any city in Oregon under the threat we are under deserves an emergency route.

**Send folks these links to our great coverage of the rally!****North Portland community fears isolation in earthquake without new bridge construction**

KATU <https://katu.com/news/local/portland-rally-demands-urgent-action-on-bridge-safety-bill#>

and

**North Portland Ralliers: 'We are not a Sacrifice Zone'**

KOIN [https://www.koin.com/news/portland/north-portland-ralliers-we-are-not-a-sacrifice-zone/?fbclid=IwY2xjawKFfa2lleHRuA2FlbQlXMQBicmlkETFHamtOEdTb3hYQnl1WEREAR7a4mAmRsPehCvs5D2bKnM0m8FH1Zfq5Dxn2Dz72t13wO5ALLE7pFbVcDnyBA\\_aem\\_Rwlt2qXnY4\\_MDOO4TQN9Mw](https://www.koin.com/news/portland/north-portland-ralliers-we-are-not-a-sacrifice-zone/?fbclid=IwY2xjawKFfa2lleHRuA2FlbQlXMQBicmlkETFHamtOEdTb3hYQnl1WEREAR7a4mAmRsPehCvs5D2bKnM0m8FH1Zfq5Dxn2Dz72t13wO5ALLE7pFbVcDnyBA_aem_Rwlt2qXnY4_MDOO4TQN9Mw)