

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Boone, Krieger, Thompson, Witt, Cannon, Gilliam
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Liz Puskar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Recognizes risks to life and property posed by Cascadia fault and associated tsunamis and earthquakes. Resolves that development and implementation of resilience policies, including those funded by Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program, should be priorities. Urges development of evacuation options and funding of establishment of Critical Transportation Infrastructure, and Critical Energy Infrastructure. Urges creation by Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission, in conjunction with other state agencies and advisory bodies, of Oregon Resilience Plan, to be delivered to Legislative Assembly by February 28, 2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Devastating effect of recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan
- Historical and geological evidence of earthquakes in Oregon
- Susceptibility of Oregon buildings, particularly schools, to damage from earthquakes
- In the event of an earthquake and tsunami, necessity of evacuation plans, communication capabilities, and emergency supply routes, particularly for coastal areas

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendments.

BACKGROUND: The Cascadia fault is a subduction zone, a type of convergent plate boundary that stretches from northern Vancouver Island to northern California. The zone separates the Juan de Fuca Plate, Explorer Plate, Gorda Plate, and North American Plate. Here, the oceanic crust of the Pacific Ocean sinks beneath the continent at a rate of 40 mm/yr. The Cascadia subduction zone can produce very large earthquakes known as "megathrust earthquakes," of magnitude 9.0 or greater, if rupture occurs over its whole area. The last known great earthquake in the Northwest was in January 1700, the Cascadia Earthquake. Geological evidence indicates that great earthquakes may have occurred at least seven times in the last 3,500 years, suggesting a return time of 300 to 600 years. There is also evidence of accompanying tsunamis with these earthquakes.