

February 11, 2015

House Committee on Rural Communities Land Use and  
Water  
Representative Brian Clem, Chair  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Comments on HB 2633 and Natural Hazard Planning**

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Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

Although highly supportive of a state focus on improving planning for natural hazards and reducing associated risks, the City of Bend has three primary concerns with the bill as drafted:

- 1) The bill lacks sufficient guidance to direct the Department's and the Commission's work in a clearly defined manner,
- 2) That the state should more fully explore the need for this work and whether other agencies have already addressed or are planning to address these concerns; and
- 3) That far more than \$50,000 would be needed to do this work well.

JIM CLINTON  
*Mayor*

SALLY RUSSELL  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

VICTOR CHUDOWSKY  
*City Councilor*

DOUG KNIGHT  
*City Councilor*

NATHAN BODDIE  
*City Councilor*

CASEY ROATS  
*City Councilor*

BARB CAMPBELL  
*City Councilor*

ERIC KING  
*City Manager*

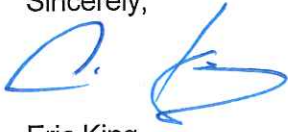
Should your committee wish to support this direction for the agency, we would recommend making the following changes:

- The Department should be required to first conduct an inventory of natural hazard areas that are at risk for experiencing certain hazards and coordinate with state agencies that may have already completed this work;
- The Department should be directed to develop safe harbors via rule;
- The Department should be required to coordinate this work with other emergency and natural hazard mitigation planning that already exists, taking care not to duplicate efforts or produce inconsistent outcomes.
- Specify that any efforts to implement outcomes in land use and zoning regulations result in clear and fair standards.
- Specify that the Commission be directed to appoint a rules advisory committee with at least one member of the commission serving as the committee chair.
- That upon completion of rulemaking, the agency report back to the Legislature.

Regarding the cost of performing this work, we believe that the budgeted amounts allocated for population forecasting and UGB streamlining are between \$150,000 to \$200,000 and that a similarly-scaled effort for natural hazards planning is what would most likely be needed. If the agency were directed to do this work with insufficient funding, it would impact their ability to address other important priorities.

Without sufficient funding to perform this work and additional guidelines for how the work would be accomplished, we can't support this direction. Frankly, we believe this topic requires continued discussion to ensure that any future efforts are focused, effective, and that they address clearly-identified needs that have yet to be addressed by other agencies or state efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eric King', written over a printed name.

Eric King  
*City Manager*