



Oregon

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Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

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The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee On Ways and Means SubCommittee On Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: DLCD Natural Hazards Mitigation Budget Request

This letter is to confirm the support of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) for two of DLCD's budget requests. The mission of OSSPAC is to improve public understanding of earthquake hazards, reduce such hazards and mitigate the possible effects of potentially damaging earthquakes (and tsunami hazards) in Oregon. We recognize that these efforts need to be part of the multi-hazard approach that DLCD is proposing.

The funding request of \$466,442 for their Natural Hazards Program will help update the State's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. We are pleased that this effort will mark a shift from the existing approach, which is based on a perception of risk, to an approach based on a numerical analysis of risk. This shift will allow Oregon communities to better understand their risk from a variety of hazards and help them better understand the difference between the risk of more frequent smaller disasters and those infrequent, but higher impact events, such as the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami. We are also pleased that this effort is being done collaboratively with DOGAMI and OEM, and is thus reducing the "stovepipe" phenomenon we noticed when doing the Oregon Resilience Plan.

While the natural hazard mitigation effort is an excellent step forward, these efforts are not truly effective unless local governments can implement them. Therefore we also support DLCD's request for \$500,000 for their Grants Program to local governments. This program will help local governments update their comprehensive plans with regards to economic development, public facilities and services, natural hazards, and residential growth. These are all key elements for communities to become resilient.

Both of these budget requests support Oregon participation in FEMA's Enhanced NHMP program, which increases FEMA support for disaster relief and planning. This makes these budget items cost effective over for the long term.

Jay Raskin, Vice Chair

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