

"I value self-discipline, but creating systems that make it next to impossible to misbehave is more reliable than self-control."

~ Tim Ferriss

Date: April 03, 2015

To: EERI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From: JAMES BELA, OREGON EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS

Cc: Dr. Edward J. Ray, President Oregon State University

"Service to Others" is our mission

Governor Kate Brown, State of Oregon

Re: Petition for (a) Removal of Dr. Scott Ashford from the EERI Board of Directors [Termination of Tenure of Office] and (b) Termination of Membership – as provided under **ARTICLE XVI of the EERI Bylaws** . <https://www.eeri.org/about-eeri/policies-and-plans/bylaws/>

This is Petition for the *removal* immediately of Dr. Scott Ashford, as Director (term 2013-2015), EERI; *as well as* for Termination of Membership: For (I) Conduct willfully against the Public Good in Oregon; (II) Conduct in willful violation of the **Objective of EERI** to advocate *comprehensive* and *realistic* measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes; and (III) Unethical Conduct against the "common good" in promoting and achieving *Earthquake Risk Reduction*. [Approaching Ethical Dilemmas in Earthquake Risk Reduction <https://www.eeri.org/projects/spi/ethics-and-case-studies/approaching-ethical-dilemmas/> ; FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES in Codes of Ethics <http://www.seaw.org/code-of-ethics> ; see also The Ethical Architect: The Dilemma of Contemporary Practice https://books.google.com/books?id=EZ_9YIIZjC8C&pg=PT98&lpg=PT98&dq=seaoc+code+of+ethics&source=bl&ots=pJ3-t4QObp&sig=Vu-RXGx03I3zShQTGQZcv4kLu6o&hl=en&sa=X&ei=QaffVNfVOYfwoATrj4LIDA&ved=0CFIQ6AEwCQ#v=onepage&q=seaoc%20code%20of%20ethics&f=false]; and (IV) falling so obviously far below the floor of the University's supposed and publicly stated "commitment to excellence in everything we do."

- WHAT? - SO WHAT? - NOW WHAT?

As the Governor Appointed Chair of the legislated (SB 33 2013 Legislature http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/docs/resilience_tf/SB33.pdf) **Oregon Resilience Task Force** <http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/Resilience-Taskforce.aspx> , Dr. Ashford willfully set aside (*after personally and publicly promising to honor them*) the provisions and safeguards of the **Oregon Public Meetings Law** by: (a) dividing the Task Force into two separate subcommittees, so as to hold secret meetings *intentionally and deliberately* closed to the public; (b) refusing the public's specific request to *provide* prepared minutes of all of these now-closed subcommittee meetings; such that now, unfortunately, there exists *no* record of who was in attendance?, who said what?, and what influenced Group (Think?) consensus?; and (c) failing to prepare a **full 7-page "Report to the Legislature"**- *detailing* more completely and responsibly the *arguments for and the reasoning behind* the Task Force Recommendations [and *instead* only producing the **two-page executive summary** that is *required* by ORS 192.245 to be *sent* to every legislator – with also *required information* contained therein on *how* they can obtain the Full Report]; as well as *failing* to both provide copies of an alleged (but to-date phantom) **Report Appendix** to the public (which would have allowed public comment at a public meeting) - and also failing to *actually* consider and approve this document as an Action Item at a Public Meeting of the Oregon Resilience Task Force – and which **Report Appendix** to this day remains clandestinely *unavailable* (if it even exists at all)! These subcommittees, meeting in secret, seemingly degenerated rather quickly into **Group Think** (with, unfortunately, *no* safeguards against it); and although Dr. Ashford had authority to appoint non-Task Force members (particularly from the Science Community – and even from among **EERI members** who had *previously* participated in preparing the original **Oregon Resilience Plan**), so as to improve both the comprehensive and realistic aspects of their recommendations – Dr. Ashford did nothing.

It is with great sadness that I now reflect here upon how the **EERI** has seemingly evolved from the genuine compassion of Professor George Housner ("He always put his heart into the earthquake problem," said one of his former students) as well as the sincerity, creativity, commitment and innovation of a Walter Hays, to the really disrespectful and unacceptable behavior of Dr. Scott Ashford, who as supposedly the **Science Community** representative on the **Oregon Resilience Task Force**, has resultantly moved my state of Oregon in the very *opposite* direction from that of **reducing earthquake risk** – which, as EERI members, *we* believe can be achieved by not only *advancing the science and practice of earthquake engineering*, but also by improving understanding of the impact of earthquakes on the physical, social, economic, political and cultural environment, and particularly by *advocating comprehensive and realistic measures* for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes. EERI:

<https://www.eeri.org/advocacy-and-public-policy/>

ARTICLE I

Objective

The objective of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute shall be to reduce earthquake risk by advancing the science and practice of earthquake engineering by improving understanding of the impact of earthquakes on the physical, social, economic, political and cultural environment, and by advocating comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes.

ARTICLE XVI

Termination of Membership and of Tenure of Office

<https://www.eeri.org/about-eeri/policies-and-plans/bylaws/>

Oregon Public Records and Public Meetings Law

Oregon's open government laws promote democracy by ensuring that all state, regional and local governments conduct their business with *transparency*.

Oregon citizens have *a right to know* how their government is spending their tax dollars *and exercising the powers* granted by the people.

http://www.doj.state.or.us/public_records/pages/index.aspx

"Be what you would seem to be - or, if you'd like it put more simply - never imagine yourself not to be otherwise than what it might appear to others that you are". . .

- Lewis Carroll

Thank you in advance for your concern and prompt attention to this matter!

James Bela

President and Founder,

Oregon Earthquake Awareness

Water and Waste Water Task Group Member

The Oregon Resilience Plan: Report to the 77th Legislative Assembly - Feb. 2013

http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/osspace/docs/Oregon_Resilience_Plan_Final.pdf

Edit – Find -- **8. Water and Wastewater Systems**