



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

Oregon Emergency Management

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Oregon Legislative Assembly  
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness  
900 Court St. NE, HR E  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chairman Lively and Committee members,

Thank you for the invitation to provide testimony for HB 4098. From OSSPAC's perspective we appreciate the role of disaster preparedness in the greater pursuit of resilience. I need to acknowledge that OSSPAC is not responsible for reviewing the interchange between local emergency management offices and Oregon Emergency Management and the Oregon Military Department. We do not try to represent their relationships and current practices for grant administration and resource procurement and sharing.

Part of the problem is that local emergency management offices are limited in their ability to directly provide testimony due to their jurisdiction's internal levels of approval and authority to represent at hearings and therefore, any testimony requires much lead time for review.

I forwarded the materials for HB 4098 to a half dozen emergency managers for their comments and I would like to anonymously paraphrase their remarks.

### Stuff vs Staff

- After years of Homeland Security grants we've discovered that it's generally not about getting more stuff.
- Seems well intentioned but poorly executed. I don't think OEM has the capacity to take on this kind of grant program. The use of the preparedness equipment for "any purpose" and a recipient's ability to maintain the equipment appears questionable.
- Having OEM doing audits does not seem the best use of staff; that's not a trivial exercise if it's done right, and it seems that DAS would be better suited for what amounts to asset management.
- With recent state-wide reductions in the Emergency Management Performance Grants, local jurisdictions are facing negative funding impacts to maintain adequate staff levels.

### Assessment

- Change 1(2)(c) and 1(3)(b)(D), which refer to "most likely" as a criteria, rather than basing it on an Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment (HVA).
- If there's not common, accepted methodology, the program would have no credibility, and a region that did due diligence might actually feel penalized for it.

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Physical Location: 3225 State Street, Room 115, Salem, Oregon

9-1-1 SAVES...

### Administration

- Will the state be requiring/purchasing maintenance contracts or extended warranties for the equipment?
- If a municipality is taking on the cost for storing, maintaining the equipment and having staffed trained on it, I balk at the idea of having to pay to use it. It's not like we are talking about expendable supplies, and most equipment you want to have it used periodically (not just run up for a few minutes) in order to ensure it stays operational (seals properly lubricated, batteries charged/discharged, etc.). Leave the limiting factor of Section 1(3)(d) (D) May permit the recipient to use..... and Section 1(3)(d) (E) Reiterate that the municipality would be responsible for any costs associated with its use including fuel, maintenance and repair.
- One key missing element – there should be some wording that the equipment will be maintained in a location that is outside the hazard area or has been mitigated to ensure the equipment will be available after the disaster/emergency....
- Nowhere does it address for right for use..... There are two implications depending on how you read the text –
  - One is that its equipment that the municipality will need in a disaster/emergency.
  - The other is that its state equipment that can be deployed where needed. So who sets the priority during a disaster on where that state equipment is most needed? If it needs moved to another location for an emergency who is responsible for moving it? How quick are the municipalities supposed to have the equipment ready for movement to another location?

### Public and Private Sector Use

- It would be tough to create a level playing field for public and private entities competing for the same resources.

In closing I'd like to share a question I'm getting in various forms every time I give a public presentation on disaster resilience, "*Ok, so I survived the earthquake, now what do I need to do for the duration?*"

The Oregon Resilience Plan highlighted the down time of weeks to months or longer that we expect to restore power, water, and other community services. We are pleased that we now have a State Resilience Officer to help orchestrate the recommendations from the ORP. In OSSPAC's continuing implementation of the ORP, we respectfully remind the Committee that we still need to address community resilience in the following areas:

- Mass displacement planning for tens of thousands of residents who will not be to return to their homes;
- A formal state-wide occupancy safety inspection program, similar to California and Washington, to quickly reopen businesses and homes; and;
- Investments in community health resilience for issues of access and management of safe drinking water, human waste management, and delivery of basic medical services.

Thank you for your continued attention to Oregon's pursuit of disaster resilience.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jay Wilson, Commission Chair, OSSPAC