



OREGON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 7309, Beaverton, OR 97007 www.oregonemergency.com

2016 Officers

Mike Lueck
President
503.718.2593

Eric Plebuch
Vice President
541.501.2696

Kelly Piper
Treasurer
503-667-3926

Krista Rowland
Secretary
503.588.5108

Jenny Demaris
West Side Rep
541.265.4199

Nathan Garibay
East Side Rep
541.617.3303

Nancy Bush
Past-President
503.655.8665

"Partnering For a Safer Oregon"

February 2, 2016

Veterans' Affairs and Emergency Management Committee
Attn: Chair John Lively
Oregon State Capital
Salem, Oregon

Chair Lively, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 4098. I am the Chair for the Oregon Emergency Management Association (OEMA) Legislative Committee. We have reviewed HB 4098 for our membership and have the following comments:

OEMA appreciates the thought and support that is going into new legislation regarding preparedness and resilience for the emergency management profession and this bill has strengths that we would like to point out. The bill is not a one size fits all equipment list and it is based on reasonable and most likely threats to the community and an expectation that utility vs. cost is a chief consideration.

However, our membership has concern regarding HB 4098. The language in Section 1(3)(b) should be amended to include that the applicant has demonstrated they have cooperated with partner agencies to prioritize needs and that it is part of a system of response rather than more local/regional benefit. In addition, there is no discussion of priority of jurisdictions and how the grants for the equipment will be distributed and how the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will provide support for the grant program. We recognize there are ever increasing requirements with current programs that continue to put pressure on OEM staff, therefore, an evaluation of current staffing at OEM would be advised before implementing any new programs to ensure it can be fully supported at the implementation juncture. There is a direct impact to the local emergency management agencies when new programs are initiated without additional staff support through service and grant funds that are kept at the state level to fund those programs rather than being passed to local jurisdictions.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bush
Chair
OEMA Legislative Committee