

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Tillamook County Commissioners
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**Veterans & Emergency Preparedness Committee Bill
HB 4098
Lend-Lease Bill**

Testimony

Members of the Committee

My apologies for not being able to be in front of you this afternoon. I've had the privilege of serving as a Tillamook County Commissioner for the last 12 years. I also serve on the Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Committee and the Board of Directors of AOC. I also serve on the Governor's Task Force to implement the Oregon Resilience Plan.

AOC would like to go on record in support for HB 4098. I know I'm missing the public hearing but would hope I could be extended the courtesy to take five minutes of your time at the Work Session next week to drive over from Tillamook to testify in person how important this Bill is to local governments.

As you know, Oregon is preparing for disasters as best we can but I would caution that at the local level we are woefully underprepared. This Bill would go a long way in helping Oregon local governments get prepared for upcoming disasters whether they be the big one or our normal floods, wind storms or wildfires.

Emergency preparedness gaps exist at the local and regional level all across the state of Oregon. In order to deliver core capabilities, and maximize the state's ability to respond in an emergency, preparedness equipment is needed throughout the state. Funding the investment in preparedness equipment is expensive and presents budget concerns for local and regional emergency response organizations as they seek to build sustain and deliver core emergency preparedness capabilities.

HB 4098 uses existing funding sources to create a Resiliency Grant Fund from which important emergency preparedness equipment can be secured, then place in the care and use of the local and regional emergency response community throughout the state. The prioritized list of equipment, tailored to local and regional needs, ensures that existing gaps in emergency preparedness can be bridged affording the citizens of Oregon more secure and resilient communities.

We value our partnership with the State more than you can imagine. Allowing us access to these Grant Funds would be extremely helpful to getting Oregon prepared rather than responding and not being as prepared as we should be.

Please move this Bill forward. Please extend me the courtesy of coming before you next week to make my case in person. I only need five minutes of your valuable time.