

Submitted for Feb. 10 hearing

HB 4093 purports to be an overdue piece of legislation to help rectify substandard county courthouses in Oregon, on the theory that many of them are obsolete and hazardous construction.

Doing a quick photo search I found that probably half of these buildings are post World War 2 era. The remaining older ones are good examples of public architecture, virtually all built with high quality design and materials. Many communities place high value on their vintage structures and a local example of that in downtown Portland is the Pioneer Courthouse, which is still serving the public as a postal facility. I have worked extensively in historic preservation, historic revival styles and heavy commercial construction and would suggest that the historic county courthouses in Oregon need possibly exterior maintenance. I'm sure the older ones have been updated as needed.

By contrast HB 4093 has been introduced with the premise that Multnomah County must spend---at last count---\$300 million for a new facility. This would be built in a known high risk seismic area, because of the potential for soil liquefaction, exacerbated by the tall, glass exterior design. This would have high insurance costs and high energy consumption, too. Multnomah County has numerous other options available, that would not endanger the public investment.

This seems to be a bill disguised to engender a high cost construction project in the Portland area and little else of value to the citizens of this state. The map available from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries #GMS-079--
<http://www.oregongeology.org/pubs/gms/GMS-079.pdf>----clearly shows the hazards of this site.

I Please do not advance HB 4093.

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