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Rep. Paul Evans

Vice-Chair:  
Rep. Deborah Boone  
Rep. Sal Esquivel

Staff:  
Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst  
Skye Couvrette, LPRO Committee Assistant

Members:  
Rep. John Lively  
Rep. Mark Meek  
Rep. Julie Parrish  
Rep. Bill Post



79<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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Dear Colleagues:

Today we begin our journey together. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you, our chamber, our communities, and our State of Oregon as the chair for the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness.

The following reflect our primary duties for the 2017 Legislation Session: 1) manage the work assigned us; 2) establish/sustain a learning environment for ourselves, our stakeholders, as well as interested citizens; 3) contribute to the emergent state of enhanced resiliency; and 4) identification and facilitation of “next steps” required for caring for those within our jurisdictions – for providing useful tools for communities to strengthen their capacities to survive/thrive following catastrophe.

Given the scale, scope, and size of the task ahead of us, I ask for your attention to the topics at hand, your willingness to offer ideas, and for you to accept an additional duty: to facilitate one of the workgroups outlined below. We will divide our work into two major categories: veterans’ policy and emergency preparedness. Much of the work regarding possible policy alternatives for veterans’ outreach and services are ready for our active consideration; we will review options and make choices for strategic investments.

Some of the work associated with emergency preparedness is available for active consideration, some is not. Accordingly, we will review possible policies and investments and utilize “workgroups” to find “ground-truth” about critical factors related to our overall state of resilience. The topics identified for workgroups include:

- a. ARES (Amateur radio structures/systems for response/recovery efforts);
- b. Citizen Corps & Credentialing;
- c. Existing/potential training synergies available with DPSST/EM Training;
- d. Airports;
- e. Seaports;
- f. Scalable Response/Recovery Facilities;

- g. Critical Ground Routes;
- h. 9-1-1- Status and Technology Horizons;
- i. Local Government Training;

We can also establish additional workgroups as needed. My intent for these workgroups is as follows: 1) call of stakeholders; 2) evaluation of existing capabilities; 3) identification of priority actions and/or investments; 4) establishment of timely conversations about areas for further study – future action/s. This process would likely include 2-4 meetings resulting in a brief report outlining the lessons learned and steps for action by the end of the 2017 Legislative Session.

Our committee is positioned to play a unique role in emergency preparedness: we can facilitate meaningful dialogue between non-profit, private, and public interests. As you know, we have precious little time to enhance existing and develop relationships; we have scarce resources that we must stretch beyond reasonable limits. Together we can find a path forward, leverage capacities, and ensure that we provide the People of Oregon with viable solutions for the challenges we face.

Please let me know what I can do to make our committee as effective and efficient as possible. I will be meeting with Vice-Chairs Boone and Esquivel weekly; time will be set aside every Friday for an “open-forum” for your input. And I have instructed my staff to prioritize committee members for brief in-office conversations to ensure access for you and your concerns. Thank you for your patience as I learn how best to serve as your chair.

Respectfully,



Paul L. Evans  
House Committee on Veterans' and Emergency Preparedness  
Chairman