



POLK COUNTY

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Mark Garton

Criminal Division
Civil Division
Marine Patrol Division
Dog Control
Emergency Management

February 13, 2017

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Re: HB2687, Lend Lease

I am writing this letter to provide testimony to the House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness. I believe that programs like this are essential for smaller counties that ultimately don't have funds to provide all the necessary tools to prepare and manage an emergency.

In Polk County we plan as much as we can for those unexpected emergencies and we do the best we can with what we have. In smaller counties, large events force us to rely on other agencies to help manage and mitigate those events. It takes time to bring resources in from outside of the area and if counties were able to have more tools available to us, each county could be just that more self-sufficient and also be able to help neighboring counties or areas.

I am in support of a program that allows the State of Oregon to provide resources to the local level to be managed and supported there as well. Every county or region is different and tools that are useful in Eastern Oregon may not have the same impact here locally in Polk County. If the resources are managed at the local level often times the program will be more successful because the people on the ground may have a better idea or understanding on how to implement this type of program in their respective areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Garton".

Sheriff Mark Garton