



OREGON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



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"Partnering For a Safer Oregon"

Mr. Terrence Woods, Chief Information Officer
State of Oregon
155 Cottage St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Woods,

I am writing today to express Oregon Emergency Management Association's (OEMA) support for a project addressing a statewide alert, warning, and notification system, currently referred to as OR-ALERT. A standard, statewide system, such as OR-ALERT, has the potential to be advantageous in public information and warning, a core capability covering all five FEMA mission areas (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery).

OR-Alerts has the capacity to be a valuable tool for local and tribal emergency managers to augment local preparedness and emergency messaging. Messaging is key in aiding in the safety and security of the public. This program should bring familiarization and interoperability on a statewide level, allowing those in emergency management to assist colleagues with messaging in the event of a large local event. Some of these local events, such as fires and floods, have real possibility to overwhelm those who are directly working in emergency response activities.

As the project progresses, and if funding is approved, I hope local and tribal emergency managers continue to be included in any conversations surrounding the development of policies and procedures, which should include statewide education efforts for the public and responders on what tools are available, their limitations, and how they are used. Local and tribal emergency managers have existing relationships with their elected officials and many of their residents. They understand local cultures can also navigate many of the nuances surrounding information sharing within their communities and understand local accepted norms.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our support for this project.

Respectfully,

Brian Young
President, Oregon Emergency Management Association