



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

I'm writing to you today to express my support for the proposed statewide alerting and warning system known as OR-ALERT.

Oregon deserves an alerts and warnings system that is resilient, interoperable and is capable of alerting Oregonians across a wide variety of communications methods. OR-ALERT is such as system.

If approved and implemented, the OR-ALERT System will:

- Provide a robust, state-of the-art alerting system available to all Oregonians
- Allow neighboring jurisdictions and the state to see when an alert is sent, thereby increasing situational awareness and providing early warning capabilities.
- Create seamless alerting interoperability between county emergency managers when mutual aid is requested.
- Provide notifications across the widest possible set communications methods.
- Provide alerting capability to those jurisdictions without any.
- Be capable of sending "Opt In" messages as well as emergency alerts
- Support multiple languages and vulnerable populations
- Ensure that the public only has to "Opt In" to one system anywhere in Oregon.
- Leverage the enterprise's buying power and lower the price of alerting per citizen and make better, more efficient use of tax payer dollars.
- Preserve lives of Oregonians

The OR-ALERT system is desperately needed to assist in responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic, wildfires, and other emergencies as soon as possible. I strongly urge you to consider adopting the system.

Thank you.

Semper Paratus,

*Steve Pegram*

Steve Pegram  
Director  
Columbia County Office of Emergency Management