

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 13, 2019

Committee on Energy & Environment
Oregon House of Representatives
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ref: House Bill 2944

Dear Colleagues:

House Bill 2944 (HB 2944) provides a vehicle for a strategic evaluation of domestic use water availability from the perspective of Emergency Preparedness and Resiliency. I ask for this, as the chair of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness: because our recent regionwide responses to water emergencies – especially around the cyanotoxin issues experienced this past summer demonstrate the need for both a strategic as well as tactical resilience posture.

It is my hope that this vehicle could yield at least the following outcomes: 1) a consensus on state-wide strategic investments; 2) priorities for designation of regional resiliency hubs; 3) recognition of the types of equipment, water purification, wastewater management practices, and training that should be provided as well as preferred method of delivery of said; and 4) development of a list for deployment of equipment, personnel, and systems ready for near-term deployment throughout the State of Oregon when the next “water scare” emerges.

Together we can, together we should develop a strategic vision for ensuring the safety and security of available water for domestic use; it is one of our primary duties within the realm of resiliency preparation and response. This approach should integrate perspectives of our many partners within the non-profit, private, and public spheres. The process envisioned would prepare the ground for an accelerated implementation plan: those who help create a strategy are more inclined to make it a reality.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate the opportunity to make the case for a formalized process to move us forward on this critical area of emergency preparedness. Please let me know what more information may be required to earn your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans".

Paul L. Evans
Chair, Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
Oregon House of Representatives