

March 14, 2019

To: House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
Chair Representative Evans, Co-Vice Chairs Representative Lewis and Representative Meek
900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 2206-1

Chair Evans, Co-Vice Chairs Representative Lewis and Representative Meek, and Members of the Committee,

Design professional organizations, both in the State and nationally, support post-disaster building assessment programs. Their effective implementation aids in emergency response by identifying buildings that can be used for shelter and other response needs. They also are an important step in the recovery process that enables property owners to use, repair or replace their buildings as warranted.

Implementation of an effective program has been recommended by OSSPAC over the years starting with the Oregon Resilience Plan and more recently in its Mass Care/Mass Displacement report. Two relevant actions have taken place since the Mass Care/Mass Displacement report was issued.

The first action is that Building Codes Division eliminated Oregon's Post-Earthquake Damage Inspection provisions (918-098-1600 thru 918-098-1630) this last fall. This opens up the possibility of having another agency administer the program, such as the Office of Emergency Management. This model is used by the State of California and is considered the "gold standard" for such programs.

The second action is that Congress passed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 in October. It requires that all states implement post-disaster building assessment programs as a condition for recovery funding. The guidelines are now being formulated, but follow California's model with the addition of some other requirements as well. Passage of HB 2206-1 will help bring Oregon into alignment with federal policies.

Passage of HB-2206-1 will increase the capacity of local jurisdictions to do post-disaster building assessments by using certified design professionals who have shown themselves very willing to volunteer. This is especially important for rural areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Sincerely,



Jay Raskin, AIA

cc: File