

From: [Margaret Steele](#)
To: [JWMHS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Letter of support for Oregon Public Health Division, Health Security, Preparedness and Response program.
Date: Monday, March 25, 2019 4:38:10 PM

Margaret Steele MD
Nehalem Bay Medical Reserve Corps
Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay

March 25, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways and Means – Human Services Subcommittee
Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair
Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair

Dear Senator Beyer and Representative Nosse:

My name is Margaret Steele. I am a retired Family Practice physician. I am part of the Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay, a volunteer organization whose mission is to increase the preparedness and resilience of our coastal community. Our local Medical Reserve Corps, which I lead, is part of the EVCNB. We have worked with the Tillamook County Health Department extensively over the past 11 years, and our partnership with them is integral to our preparedness efforts.

I am writing in strong support of the Oregon Public Health Division's Health Security, Preparedness and Response program.

The EVCNB works with many community partners to improve community resilience. These partners include Tillamook County, the cities of Manzanita, Nehalem and Wheeler, Nehalem Bay Fire Rescue, Nehalem Bay Wastewater, our two local medical clinics, Tillamook Regional Medical Center, and the Tillamook County Health Department. We have learned in the 11 years of our existence that it really does **take a village, working together** to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the kinds of disasters we are vulnerable to, up to and including a Cascadia Subduction Zone event.

The partnership of Public Health with Emergency Preparedness provides a natural synergy, which improves our State's ability to plan and prepare for public health emergencies and natural or man-made disasters. It will improve our State's capacity to quickly respond to and recover from local emergencies and disasters.

EVCNB knows from experience that emergency preparation in risk-prone areas results in better response and quicker recovery. Our work aims to help individuals and families prepare themselves, so that they will need less help and support from the State. However, our community's needs after a major disaster will be far more than we can handle alone. We will continue to depend on our State and County partners, most definitely including the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program.

I hope the Joint Ways and Means Committee will support the Public Health
Emergency Preparedness budget request.

Sincerely,

Margaret Steele, MD

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