

April 2, 2019

2018-2019 Officers

Courtney Davis, P.E.
President
KPF
courtney.davis@kpf.com

Bahaar Taylor
President- Elect
Erickson Structural
Bahaar@ericksonstructural.com

Allison Pynch, P.E.
Past- President
Hart Crowser
allison.pynch@hartcrowser.com

Jerald Ramsden, P.E.
Treasurer
WSP
gerald.ramsden@wsp.com

Tsung Hwa (Sophia) Burkhart, E.I.
Secretary
Oregon Dept. of Transportation
tsunghwa.s.burkhart@odot.state.or.us

Josh Goodall, P.E.
Program Chair
Quincy Engineering
joshg@quincyceng.com

Tom Gayne, P.E.
President - SW Washington Branch
GRI
TGayne@gri.com

Mikal Mitchell
President - Capital Branch
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Mikal.Mitchell@hdrinc.com

Jamestaun B. Kraupp, EI
YMF President
Kittelson & Associates
jkraupp@kittelson.com

Wade Osborne, P.E.
President - Geotechnical Group
Cornforth Consultants, Inc.
wosborne@cornforthconsultants.com

Ryan Retzlaff
President - EWRC
Brown and Caldwell
retzlaff@BrwnCald.com

Tom North, P.E.
President - SEI
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
thomas.north@usace.army.mil

House Committee Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, 160
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2206 – Development of a State Safety Assessment Program

Honorable Legislators,

On behalf of the nearly 2200 members of the Oregon Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) the Section Board wishes to thank you for your efforts to forge legislation to develop a more resilient Oregon. Your commitment to make Oregon a safer, more resilient state has not gone unnoticed. As you are aware, the State of Oregon and our local cities are facing a very daunting emergency response effort following a major natural disaster, including the expected Cascadia megaquake and tsunami. State leadership such as yours is necessary to develop programs that provide the tools to be able to make our response easier and to hasten our long-term recovery.

HB 2206 develops a safety assessment program to assess structures, specifically buildings, after a large disaster. Oregon is well behind California whose program is well developed and has been successfully implemented in recent disasters both in California and other areas. Washington's program is in development and will work in conjunction with the existing California program.

Based on recent ASCE disaster reconnaissance trips to Mexico, Japan, and Chile, one of the most common lessons learned shared with our teams was that an organized, coordinated, and standardized safety assessment program is imperative for disaster response and recovery. An unorganized or nonstandardized program can significantly delay response, increase shelter demand, and create further confusion and demand on over-taxed emergency managers.

Further, we recommend that this program be housed in the Office of Emergency Management and coordinate with the Building Code Division. This will mirror programs in California and Washington and result in better coordination between agencies both before and after a disaster. Further, OEM has practiced and is prepared to respond to emergencies and coordinate emergency response efforts on the scale that will be required for a Cascadia event.

The Oregon Section of ASCE recommends that the Oregon legislature provide adequate funding for developing, operating, and maintaining a state post disaster assessment program so that we are better prepared to recover from a large natural disaster. We encourage you to continue advocating for a more resilient Oregon and appreciate your work on this topic. We pledge our organizational support for this and future legislative efforts to meet State resilience needs. Thank you for your service to our state.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Pynch, PE, GE
ASCE Oregon Past President (on behalf of the ASCE Oregon Section Board)