



LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Bozievich
Pat Farr
Joe Berney
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May 2, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court St NE
Room H-178
Salem OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Representative Holvey and Senator Girod and Members of the Subcommittee:

Lane County offers its support for Governor Brown's \$12.25M request for general obligation authority for the University of Oregon's Shake Alert and Wildfire Alert Seismic Stations. This funding will allow for additional sensors and cameras, and telemetry to further develop this much-needed disaster response and mitigation system.

The Board of Commissioners discussed this request at our regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 30, 2019. In coming to the position of support we discussed the history of support that we have indicated for the University's evolution of this project, both to the United States Congress and the Oregon Legislature. We further discussed our existing legislative priority of supporting efforts to mitigate wildfire smoke. The Governor's request is consistent with our priorities and we urge the Committee to ensure that this item remain as part of HB 5005 as you consider this measure.

There are several additional points I'd like to make:

- Shake Alert was first designed to be deployed along the entire West coast. It is designed to give advance warning of seismic activity and be linked into automated systems that could, for example, shut down transit systems, power plants, and other critical infrastructure. The \$12M investment being asked of the Oregon Legislature appears to our Board to be very reasonable, given the value to life and infrastructure preservation this system can protect.
- Wildfire is of growing concern for our Board, particularly when we meet as the Board of Health. We applaud the Oregon Department of Forestry and its work to protect both state and federal lands and their remarkable work over the past several summers. We recognize that much of their success in wildfire expansion is due to their effectiveness at initial attack. The added ability for Shake Alert infrastructure to be utilized for wildfire detection is critical, and an added bonus to the work the University initially set out to accomplish with Shake Alert. Again, the investment request is a hedge against growing public health costs that are very real for communities across our state.

Thank you for consideration of this testimony in support of the \$12.25M request by the University of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Pete Sorenson, Chair