

Chair Evans and members of the committee:

Thank you for the chance to share my perspective on HB 4041.

I am supportive of creating the Department of Emergency Management (“DEM”).

Two suggested changes to HB 4041:

1. It is imperative to have the best set of liaisons possible as key players to the DEM as described in **SECTION 3. ORS 401.054 on pages 2-3** of the bill.

I strongly encourage one additional liaison – either the State CIO or a direct report of the CIO. Information Technology is now an absolutely critical part of the functioning of every state and local agency and private enterprise as well. Having a liaison from IT will ensure that all IT issues will be addressed in a timely manner, appropriate IT resources are made available, and the status of the IT systems are accurately communicated.

2. It is also imperative to have the best set of members on the Homeland Security Council as described in **SECTION 147. ORS 401.109 on page 79** of the bill.

I strongly encourage one additional member to that council – either the State CIO or a direct report of the CIO. Information Technology is now an absolutely critical part of the functioning of every state and local agency and private enterprise as well. Having an IT member will ensure that all IT systems will be ready for Homeland Security normal daily operation, for any emergency that may occur, and, and the status of all IT systems are accurately communicated.

Thanks for allowing me to input!

Tom Messenger

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