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February 3, 2020

Oregon State Senate General Government and Emergency Preparedness Committee

Sent via: Email

Subject: Oregon Senate Bill 1537

Dear Senators Riley, Girod, Boquist, Golden, and Monnes Anderson:

RH2 Engineers, Inc., (RH2), is a civil engineering firm in Oregon and Washington providing engineering services to municipalities and water/wastewater utilities. We support our clients in their efforts to build seismic resilience into their utility infrastructure to reduce repairs and continue services as soon as possible after potential seismic events. As part of this support, RH2 is a technology pilot partner of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) ShakeAlert™ Program.

We encourage passing Senate Bill 1537 to provide necessary funding for several earthquake preparedness measures, and specifically for the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning System and Public System Outreach and Education. This funding is vital for completion of the network of seismic stations to improve the early warning signal and to lead to a public roll-out of the system in Oregon, as California has already done for their citizens.

We also highly support the requested funding for 2-Week Ready Oregon, Dam Safety Assessments, and updating the Oregon Resilience Plan. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lanigan
Rachel Lanigan, PE
RH2 Engineering, Inc.

Kyle Pettibone
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Jeff Ballard
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WASHINGTON LOCATIONS

- Bellingham
- Bothell (Corporate)
- East Wenatchee
- Issaquah
- Richland
- Tacoma

OREGON LOCATIONS

- Medford
- Portland