

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 5, 2020

Governor Kate Brown  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE, Rm 254  
Salem, OR 97301

Senate President Peter Courtney  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE, S-201,  
Salem, OR 97301

Speaker Tina Kotek  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE, Rm 269  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown, President Courtney, and Speaker Kotek:

We share the state of Oregon's commitment to preparing the state for a Cascadia event. Since FY 2015, Congress has consistently appropriated funds to the U.S. Geological Survey to implement plans for the west coast public rollout of ShakeAlert, an earthquake early warning system.

We are delighted to see that the Governor's resiliency package, SB 1537, includes funds for the acquisition of sensors to speed Oregon's ability to deliver ShakeAlert warnings. We understand an initial hearing on the bill will take place on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. We urge your full and fair consideration. We need the state's partnership for the earthquake early warning system to fulfill its promise in Oregon.

As you know, the U.S. Geological Survey in collaboration with Caltech, UC Berkeley, the University of Washington, and the University of Oregon, developed ShakeAlert, which detects waves radiating from the epicenter of an earthquake. Depending on where an earthquake erupts, the ShakeAlert signal can be used to provide people with dozens of seconds of warning in California and up to a few minutes in parts of Oregon.

Last week on January 26, the state recognized the 320<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last Cascadia earthquake. We were pleased to see public officials come together to call for preparedness and state investment in ShakeAlert. As you know, both the state of California and Washington not only directly fund ShakeAlert, but they have also consistently made investments in the university-USGS operated seismic networks in their states. The state of Oregon's investment is needed for Oregon to have reliable warnings from ShakeAlert. We applaud your consideration of SB 1537.

We are continuing to secure federal funds for the implementation of the ShakeAlert system. During the short session, we urge you to act on calls for investment that will make Oregon ready for the public rollout of ShakeAlert. Together, we can make the state better prepared for a Cascadia event.

Sincerely,

  
PETER A. DEFAZIO  
Member of Congress

  
KURT SCHRADER  
Member of Congress

  
SUZANNE BONAMICI  
Member of Congress