

AAIA

Aurora Airport Improvement Association

144797 Keil Rd NE - Aurora, Oregon 97002

February 5, 2020

Senator Chuck Riley

Chair, Senate Committee on General Government and Emergency Preparedness

AAIA support for SB 1537 "Two-Week Ready Oregon"

Chair Riley and members of the committee,

We've always been told, "get ready for the big one, have two week's worth of food and water at home". It's time to make sure the State has two week's worth of "readiness" on hand and we need to figure out where to put it.

I am a Logistician. I plan and get ready before things are needed. Having served in the Army on active duty and then in the Oregon Army National Guard, I supported responses to natural disasters as a MEDEVAC Pilot and a Commander. I can tell you there are at least two constant factors at play in a disaster; confusion and confusion. Trying to come up with plans and find supplies in the middle of the confusion just adds to the confusion. (The confusion cannot be over emphasized.) Since leaving the military, I've worked as a logistician for a major electrical utility construction company. We plan, store and stay ready as we work to keep our nation's electrical infrastructure strong. When the storms hit, it's us and our industry partners that reach into our warehouses to get the materials and mobilize the crews. We work to get the power back on in the worst of conditions. We are successful because we plan and stock the needed equipment and supplies. We are ready.

There is an old Army staff planner's adage, "**Mediocre execution of an excellent plan is better than excellent execution of no plan at all.**" This bill is a strong and solid foundation upon which the State of Oregon can and will develop a pre-planned, well thought out system of disaster support. Stocking of supplies will minimize the confusion while getting help to the suffering and getting our state back to normal. The State of Oregon needs to plan and organize, we need to get "two-week ready." The storms are coming.

Let's make that plan. Let's get prepared. When the confusion (x2) comes, we'll be ready. Support SB 1537 and make Oregon "Two-Week Ready".

Sincerely,

Tony Helbling

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Logistics Manager

Wilson Construction Company

(Commander, 1994 – 1996, 1042 Medical Company (Air Ambulance), Oregon Army National Guard, Salem, Oregon)