



February 5, 2020

RE: Support for SB 1537

Honorable Chuck Riley and members of the Senate Committee on General Government and Emergency Preparedness:

Portland State University supports the adoption of SB 1537 and commends the Governor's resilience efforts to ensure Oregon is prepared for future emergencies. Every aspect of the bill is important to creating a safer, better prepared state.

PSU recognizes how crucial resilience efforts are needed throughout the Pacific Northwest. The university is engaged in supporting research and training on resilience across the State of Oregon. Through the Hatfield School of Government and the Toulon School of Urban Studies and Planning, our faculty are actively engaged in research collaborations to assess and improve Oregon's ongoing efforts to effectively prepare for a Cascadia Subduction Zone event. Part of that work includes ensuring the resilience of the Oregon Resilience Plan. A thoughtful update of the plan will allow Oregon to recognize the progress it has achieved, identify the needs for further resilience measures, and increase the safety and wellbeing of Oregonians.

SB 1537 makes critical investments to develop programs to ensure the safety and resilience of Oregonians. We look forward to our continued involvement with the Office of Emergency Management as they update the Oregon Resilience Plan and develop the programs needed to be proactive and prepared during seismic activity. We support SB 1537 and appreciate the efforts of Governor Brown to provide Oregonians with vital resilience support and programs.

Thank you,

Kevin Neely
Vice President of University Relations
Portland State University