



TO: House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management
FROM: Kim Olson, Legislative Chair
DATE: April 4, 2021
RE: Support for HB 2581

My name is Kim Olson, and I am a practicing architect and chair of the American Institute of Architects Legislative Affairs Committee.

I am writing to you today in support of HB 2851 with funding for the Oregon Safety Assessment Program.

In 2019 the Oregon legislature unanimously passed HB 2206 to train, certify, and dispatch architects and engineers who volunteer their time to assess building damage following a disaster. This model has been effective in other states. A properly organized safety assessment program is an invaluable strategy to help ensure that Oregon and its residents get the support it needs following a disaster, not only identifying unsafe buildings but will facilitate faster recovery by returning people back into safe buildings sooner, decreasing shelter needs and allowing emergency managers to focus on the needs of the most vulnerable.

Without this program, Oregon is behind many of the states and is lagging in preparedness for a large disaster.

I urge passage of HB 2851 to fund this important program.