



OREGON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 7309, Beaverton, OR 97007 www.oregonemergency.com

2020 Officers

Brian Young
President
971-901-2068

Dave Busby
Vice President
541-745-9609

Cheryl Vandlac
Treasurer
503-701-1488

Robert Quinn
Secretary
503-307-4129

Chuck Perino
West Side Rep
541-917-7725

Tom Roberts
East Side Rep
541-969-0270

Kelly Piper
Past President
503-667-3926

"Partnering For a Safer Oregon"

The Honorable Paul Evans
900 Court St, NE, H-471
Salem OR 97301

Letter in Support of HB 2927, Renaming and Reorganizing the Office of Emergency Management

Dear Representative Evans,

We at OEMA would strongly advocate for HB 2927 as it would directly improve emergency management at the right level with the other Departments. The original intent of placing emergency management under the military department came from a decades old concept of Civil Defense. Modern emergency management has evolved to being a fluid, responsive, strategic process that supports all community members and is responsive to Federal directives.

Across the spectrum of emergency management; from prevention, protection, mitigation, and response to recovery there are many discussions that need to happen at the State level. This move to establish OEM as a State Department level organization would improve communications from the Director to the Governor, increasing the relevance of emergency management to all other State Departments and Federal Agencies.

The one area of concern with this bill would be that it should be clear that the current OEM structure doesn't include the capacity for human resources, admin services, and a few other structural areas. The plans establishment of OEM as its own Department should address these staffing issues as well. There is no time for OEM to pause for a rebuild, these functions must be included.

OEMA believes the impact of HB 2927 will directly improve the resilience of the State of Oregon, and we fully support this initiative.

Respectfully,

Brian Young
President, Oregon Emergency Management Association