



**Marion County**  
OREGON

Board of Commissioners

March 28, 2023

(503) 588-5212  
(503) 588-5237-FAX

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair  
Senator Daniel Bonham, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

**RE: Marion County Opposes SB 907**

**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

Colm Willis, Chair  
Kevin Cameron  
Danielle Bethell

**CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER**

Jan Fritz

Dear Chair Senator Taylor, Vice Chair Senator Bonham and Members of the Committee:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners opposes Senate Bill 907, which would provide employees that have a “reasonable apprehension” of impairment to their health and safety with the right to refuse to perform tasks assigned by employers under certain circumstances. SB 907 would undermine Marion County’s ability to serve its residents, especially in times of disaster.

During the 2020 wildfires, Marion County staff were on the front lines of the emergency response. Our staff assisted in the mass evacuation of the Santiam Canyon, staffed emergency evacuation sites, provided frontline resource navigation, and coordinated post-wildfire site cleanups all during the global pandemic. The quick emergency response of Marion County’s staff saved lives and led to an incredibly successful evacuation. Passing SB 907 would allow employees to opt out of similar emergency responsibilities compromising the County’s response to disaster situations, such as wildfires, floods, and earthquakes.

Additionally, Marion County works closely with the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OSHA) and Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) to ensure that all our employees are provided with a safe work environment. SB 907 would create a redundancy in protections already administered under OSHA and BOLI. This bill goes far beyond current workplace safety standards.

The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the committee to votes no on SB 907. Thank you for your continued work to support our communities.

Sincerely,

Colm Willis  
Chair

Kevin Cameron  
Commissioner

Danielle Bethell  
Commissioner

BOC: AMK