

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Deb Patterson, State Senator from District 10, which includes South Salem, West Salem, Monmouth, and Independence. I would like to add my support to HB 2484 A, which would direct the Department of the State Fire Marshal to coordinate urban search and rescue functions of the state, while requiring the department to study the needs of the state related to urban search and rescue functions.

HB 2484 A would allow existing USAR search and rescue teams throughout the state to better coordinate the statewide implementation of technical rescues that local fire departments are not equipped to respond to. This measure would increase Oregon's emergency preparedness at a vital time. Natural disasters in Oregon are only increasing due to climate change. Oregon faces risk from natural disasters such as earthquakes, but seismic design standards have not been in place in the state for as long as other earthquake-prone areas, such as California, posing a risk of structural collapse. Additionally, Oregon faces a risk of weather events such as extreme heat, wildfires, winter storms, and floods. Given these risks, it is incredibly important that the Legislature act to preserve Oregonians' safety and to mitigate the impact of potential accidents and disasters.

A coordinated, seamless response in the event of an emergency saves lives. This legislation would be an investment in the safety of Oregon's people, making it easier for people to be found and rescued as quickly as possible in the event of a disaster. I urge your aye vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Patterson