



PORTLAND BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Keith Wilson, Mayor • Shad Ahmed, Director

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March 6, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2151

Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM), I am writing to express our support of HB 2151.

PBEM strives to enhance community resilience by equipping Portland residents with the knowledge and resources necessary to prepare for and respond to major seismic events and other natural disasters. Through strategic planning, public outreach, and comprehensive training programs, PBEM fosters a proactive approach to disaster preparedness and recovery, ensuring the city can effectively mitigate risks and support residents in times of crisis.

House Bill 2151 authorizes the use of funds from the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund to support local governments in planning and preparing for the impacts of a potential earthquake. Given the significant likelihood of a major seismic event affecting Oregon within the next 50 years, these funds play a critical role in risk mitigation by facilitating the development of concrete, actionable strategies to enhance resilience and ensure communities can withstand and recover from such an event.

Additionally, these funds can be utilized to reduce the risks associated with the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub in the event of a major seismic event by supporting the development of emergency response protocols and evacuation strategies. The CEI Hub poses substantial threats to public health, safety, economic stability, and environmental integrity, endangering Portland and downstream communities along the Columbia River. Investing in local governments' capacity to address these vulnerabilities is essential to preserving lives, sustaining livelihoods, and protecting vital natural resources.

I urge your support of House Bill 2151.

Thank you,

Shad Ahmed
Director, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management