

March 28, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Request for \$6 million match for Columbia Memorial Hospital's FEMA BRIC grant.

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez and members of the Committee,

I am doctor Bob Holland. I am a retired physician who practiced OB/GYN for nearly 20 years at Columbia Memorial Hospital, have been on the board of trustees for about 13 years and am the current President of the Board.

The Oregon resilience plan and DOGAMI have estimated a 37% chance of a 7.1 or greater earthquake in the next 50 years along the state coast line. The coastal communities and their 11 hospitals are in jeopardy of significant damage or even complete loss of service in the event of a major Cascadia event.

Studies have shown the coastal communities are unprepared for a significant earthquake and an associated tsunami. The state has set a goal of total hospital resiliency.

DOGAMI states that Clatsop county has the highest number of risk residents. In the event of a serious earthquake and an associated tsunami, it is estimated that Clatsop county could see 1700 serious injuries with many of them requiring hospitalization.

The BOT being acutely aware of the risks of a major Cascadia event would have on the upgraded hospital and charged the administration and ZGF architect firm to design with mitigation of

building roof to allow continued inflow and outflow of patients during the disaster.

With the location of the hospital near residences and business well in the tsunami inundation zone, incorporated into the plans is a way to provide refuge to those nearby to escape a coming tsunami wave. A safe haven for about 1900 people is accessed via first-of-its-kind tsunami vertical evacuation shelter integrated into the facility, where supplies will be stored to maintain them for several days.

FEMA changed its paradigm from solely disaster recovery to prevention. To aid projects like ours, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grants are being made to help finance these resilience projects. CMH was awarded a \$20M grant of which a local match is required. It is help with these matching funds that we are urging you to consider allotting us. Build CMH is almost entirely self-funded and the amount we are asking is 2% of the entire budget.

Our goal is to build a resilient hospital to be a model for other coastal hospitals and as a leader through out the nation.

Sincerely,

Dr Robert Holland
CMH Board of Trustees, President