

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

66 SE D STREET SUITE A | MADRAS, OREGON 97741
PHONE: 541-475-2449 FAX: 541-475-4454

February 4, 2026

To: Representative Tran, Chair
House Committee on Emergency Management and Veterans

Re: In Support of House Bill 4121

Dear Chair Tran and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of House Bill 4121 and its role in strengthening emergency preparedness, training, coordination, and resilience across Oregon. As the state prepares for high-impact events such as a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, effective emergency coordination across agencies and jurisdictions is essential. Additionally, Oregon's public safety sector continues to grow, increasing the need for accessible, quality, joint training.

HB 4121 delivers a more connected and resilient public safety training and emergency management system statewide and directly supports the development and success of the Central Oregon Ready, Responsive, Resilient (CORE3) public safety training and emergency coordination center currently being developed in Redmond, Oregon to help meet these critical needs.

HB 4121 strengthens training and emergency response systems between state and local agencies while also leveraging prior legislative investments in emergency preparedness and resilience. Funding provided in 2022 and 2025 has been used responsibly to advance CORE3, including completion of the necessary access road and utility development to the site, and full design and engineering. Continued investment through HB 4121 would allow construction of the Emergency Coordination Center and training classrooms to move forward, maintaining project momentum and efficiencies, support local economic activity, and help establish CORE3 as a model for similar emergency coordination and training facilities across Oregon.

HB 4121 supports the continued development of CORE3 and similar facilities as part of a coordinated and systemic approach to public safety training and emergency coordination across the state. Jefferson County strongly supports House Bill 4121 as a critical investment in Oregon's emergency preparedness and resilience infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Mark Wunsch, Chairman

Kelly Simmelink, Commissioner

Seth Taylor, Commissioner