

Submitter: Donna Bleiler  
On Behalf Of: Citizens against government growth  
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management and Veterans  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4121

I OPPOSE HB 4121 AS BEING AN UNNECESSARY EXPENSE, ESPECIALLY WHEN BUDGET SHOULD BE CUT.

You have passed a number of actions for preparedness, and this bill carved out pieces of programs just for the sake of creating a new agency and growing government.

**State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment (SPIRE) Program:** In 2017, the Legislature established the SPIRE program through House Bill 2687. This program enables the state to purchase and strategically pre-place emergency equipment—such as rescue boats, all-terrain vehicles, and water purification trailers—for use by local agencies during statewide emergencies like a Cascadia earthquake. The program has been expanded through subsequent funding, including a \$5 million bond measure in 2020 (House Bill 4144-A, not enacted, but concept pursued).

**OEM Restructuring and Independence:** In 2022, the Legislature passed House Bill 2927, which transferred OEM from the Oregon State Police to a standalone agency with its own dedicated funding, enhancing its operational independence and authority.

**Emergency Management Advisory Councils:** In 2021, House Bill 2927 established the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council (EPAC) within the Governor's Office, tasked with providing policy recommendations on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council was also created to advise OEM.

**Emergency Operations and Training:** The Legislature has supported the development of the State of Oregon Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the State Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP), which guide training, exercises, and readiness efforts. In 2023, the Legislature approved funding for 41 new OEM positions and a 24-hour operations center, enhancing real-time response capabilities.

**County-Level Preparedness Grants:** In 2025, the Legislature enacted a new grant program (Senate Bill 505) to fund emergency preparedness coordinators in coastal counties (Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, and Tillamook), strengthening local disaster readiness.