

Jay Raskin, AIA
Vice-Chair
Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

May 11, 2015

The Honorable John Lively
Chair House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee
900 Court Street NE, H-488
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Deeper Dive in HB 3447, Other Issues

Dear Representative Lively,

Making Oregon resilient is a long-term effort. I applaud this Committee for the passage of resilience legislation, including HB 3447, which directs LCDC to work with coastal communities on tsunami resilience planning. One of the major lessons we learned from developing the Oregon Resilience Plan was the importance of understanding interdependencies. This is especially true for tsunami resilience for coastal communities. Tsunami resilience depends on coordinating many different things, ranging from emergency response, to upgrading critical infrastructure, to mitigation and recovery planning, among many others.

As LCDC develops the tsunami resilience guidelines, it needs to reach out to other State agencies to coordinate so policies and directivess. This is the lesson learned from the Gold Beach Hospital example, where conflicting demands from State agencies produced less than optimal results. All State agencies need to be involved in this to some degree. One important example is the SB 379 Inundation Line. DOGAMI needs to proceed with the adoption of the new tsunami inundation line. This a critical element needed for resilience planning and economic development for coastal communities.

Public works need to be brought into resilience planning from the very beginning. The roads, bridges, water and water systems, and utilities are critical elements are the most expensive part of the equation, but bring with them funding mechanisms and long term horizons.

Lastly, the needs of the coastal communities economies needs to be accommodated. The planning must take into account existing economic conditions, as well as future economic viability during the implementation of resilience planning measures, as well as following the disaster itself.

The above items deal with implementation. From a Legislative perspective, there are a number of resilience initiatives that can be considered for the next session.

1. Strengthen the telecommunications system for the critical 3 week period following a disaster. Review options, including requiring a (3) three week emergency power back-up for cell towers.
2. Implement a Safety Assessment Program for post-disaster review of buildings and structures. This would build on the current program in BCD for listing of design professionals and add administrative support for training and implementation. This program can be based on the successful program in California, that was recently adopted by Washington.
3. Consider changing Committee's name to House Veteran's and Disaster Resilience Committee to reflect more accurately the work of the Committee in light of the focus on resilience.

Thank you for your invitation for me to provide these thoughts.

Sincerely,



Jay Raskin, AIA
Vice-Chair, OSSPAC