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79th LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

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Testimony Summary

Topic: *Briefing on the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) of the Portland Metropolitan Region*

Committee Briefer: *Denise Barrett, RDPO Administrator*

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Major Points of Testimony: *Overview of major points of presentation (1-2 paragraphs; 3-5 sentences per paragraph recommended)*

- I. *The Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) is a collaborative partnership of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector stakeholders in the five-county Portland Metropolitan Region collaborating to increase the region's resiliency to disasters. The RDPO builds and maintains disaster preparedness capabilities through strategic and coordinated planning, training and exercising, and investment in technology and specialized equipment. The RDPO has working partnerships at the state level with OEM, ODOE, DOGAMI, ODOJ, the State Resilience Officer, and OSSPAC.*
- II. *The RDPO's strategic policy areas:*
 - a. **Critical infrastructure resilience** – including 1) **Fossil fuel storage and distribution system resilience** - encouraging/supporting legislation to advance greater coordinated planning and funding/incentives to address seismic vulnerabilities in the Central Energy Infrastructure Hub in Portland; 2) **Multi-modal transportation system resilience (i.e., air, land, water, rail)** – encouraging greater coordinated risk assessment and planning, prioritization and funding of projects to address seismic vulnerabilities and increase resilience;
 - b. **Community Resilience:** - 1) **Community readiness** - encouraging/supporting legislation that advances greater coordination and funding of disaster preparedness messaging and public outreach programs; 2) **Mass Displacement Event Preparedness:** encouraging/supporting legislation that advances greater

coordination and funding for post-earthquake mass displacement response and recovery planning (e.g., mass sheltering; temporary housing); etc. 3) **Earthquake Early Warning**: encouraging full funding of this game-changing technology and coordinated messaging to help save lives, reduce injuries and help mitigate government and business disruptions post-earthquake.

- c. **Regional hazard mitigation risk reduction** – e.g., encouraging/supporting legislation that invests in flood mitigation efforts in our region (such as the Levee Ready Columbia project is doing); and
- d. **Funding to sustain local and regional (i.e., RDPO) preparedness efforts** - e.g. Homeland Security Grant Program, including the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program, State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP); federal and state funding for natural hazard mitigation/pre-disaster recovery planning.

Evidence/Supporting Material:

RDPO website: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/rdpo/>

RDPO 2016 Annual Report: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/rdpo/article/627330>

RDPO 2017-2021 Strategic Plan: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/rdpo/article/588542>

RDPO 2017-2018 Work Plan: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/rdpo/article/618134>

RDPO Fact Sheet: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/rdpo/article/623463>

RDPO Governing Board (Policy Committee):

If advocating for passage of legislation include evidence of at least the following: N/A

- A. *Significance of the issue*
- B. *Harm caused by perpetuation of the status quo (not making the changes included in the measure)*
- C. *Inherency of the problems identified within the status quo*
- D. *Explanation of how proposal shall improve the situation*
- E. *Clarification of the likely benefits (outweighing potential costs/risks)*

If opposing passage of legislation include evidence of at least the following: N/A

- A. *Continuation of the status quo represents the best, most effective/efficient choice at this moment*
- B. *Proposal requires excessive specific adjustment/improvements for reasonable consideration*

If suggesting adjustment/improvements to proposed legislation include the following details:

- A. *How adjustment shall improve the proposal*
- B. *How adjustment shall function: the mechanical aspects of your recommendation*

C. Explanation of the net differences in form, function, and responsibilities (costs)