



Association of
Oregon Counties

CLATSOP COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIANNE THOMPSON

Testimony to the House Veterans & Emergency Preparedness
Committee - HB 2687
2/14/17

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee, My name is Lianne Thompson. I'm a Clatsop County Commissioner also co-chair of the Association of Oregon Counties Public Safety Subcommittee on Resilience. I'm also honored to be a constituent of Representative Boone.

AOC is pleased to support House Bill 2687. This bill is an important step in giving counties and local governments tools to support emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

As I mentioned in my testimony to you last week, Oregon counties are continually challenged by natural, technological, and human-caused disasters. Statutory authority for emergency preparation and response starts at the local level.

But as you are all aware, many of our local governments have been struggling with tough budget times. Any assistance that the state or federal government can provide will allow our communities to become more resilient.

In recent years, counties have been at the front line of responding to wildfires, active shooter situations, and severe flooding. Now, we are facing a winter storm crisis that continues to affect some parts of Oregon with lasting economic effects. Last week's visit by Governor Brown to Malheur County in the wake of their onion crisis is a key example of how local communities sometimes need assistance.

Our ability to support resilience in our counties affects every aspect of life – public health, economic development, land-use planning, housing, public safety, transportation, energy. House Bill 2687 could be an investment in all of these things.

Our collaboration together as local government with you as the state will allow us to better protect our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2687.