

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 7, 2019

Representative Nancy Nathanson
Chairperson, House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Findley and Marsh, Committee Members:

I regret that a standing medical appointment prohibits my personal participation in this hearing. However, I have asked my Chief of Staff Mr. Evans Sorce, to deliver these comments on my behalf.

HB 2522 represents a critical step forward for our overall statewide resiliency. This measure represents an investment in families across the State of Oregon, especially those families struggling today just to pay the bills at the end of the month. In many ways this bill represents fairness: it is both instrument as well as ornament – substance and symbol. As you know, for many families the purchase of a “stockpile” of life safety equipment, food, and supplies, remains a luxury – something beyond their grasp. For it is difficult to justify an investment in foods or supplies for the future, when today is uncertain.

This measure will not transform the resiliency of our state overnight. But it would demonstrate our recognition of the importance of family preparedness. It would provide a modest incentive: a \$100.00 tax credit for the purchase of critical disaster related goods. And while this amount is likely far from sufficient for providing the two-weeks of supplies recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (or the Oregon Office of Emergency Management), it will send an important message – it will help make at least a baseline supply – a little more possible.

As the chair of the Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness for the Oregon House of Representatives, I earnestly believe this measure could – and would – spark renewed interest in the importance of individual as well as family preparedness. We must do everything possible to ensure we are better prepared for the catastrophes to come. Simply put, the more we prepare before a disaster, the fewer people will die – it’s that simple.

Unfortunately, we cannot take any action to eliminate the likely loss of life resulting from catastrophic disaster, but together we can reduce its price in lives and property damage. To be successful we must come together as a community and demonstrate our commitment to an enhanced resiliency posture. I ask for your support for this basic, but straightforward step towards greater preparedness.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2522 today. Please let me know if there are specific questions you might have, or additional information you might require for a positive disposition of this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans".

Paul L. Evans
Oregon House of Representatives (HD 20)