



**AIA**  
Oregon

April 3, 2019

To: House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness  
Chair Representative Evans, Co-Vice Chairs Representative Lewis and Representative Meek  
900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: Support for HB 2206-3**

Chair Evans, Co-Vice Chairs Representative Lewis and Representative Meek, and Members of the Committee,

The American Institute of Architects of Oregon (AIA-Oregon) supports the creation of the Oregon Safety Assessment Program (OrSAP) within the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Safety assessment programs provide training of architects and engineers with the knowledge and protocols to evaluate buildings in the aftermath of a disaster. It provides Oregon's communities with volunteer professional expertise in moments of need, increasing the community's capacity to evaluate buildings for emergency response and recovery efforts, and saving money. This is especially important for rural communities.

The creation of OrSAP will also help Oregon by allowing for mutual aid agreements with other states with similar programs, providing additional help following a disaster in Oregon, and provide opportunities for Oregon's design professionals to gain experience by helping in other states. California and Washington, states with significant seismic risk, have established safety assessment programs. OrSAP will also align Oregon with planned federal requirements for a safety assessment program as a pre-requisite for receiving disaster recovery funding.

Oregon's architects have shown their willingness to participate in safety assessment programs, signing up for Oregon's recently eliminated post-disaster inspection program, and more recently, signing up for safety assessment training offered by OEM and local jurisdictions. We care about the built environment and the health, safety and welfare our communities.

Thank you for consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Seth Anderson, AIA  
President

Curt Wilson, AIA  
Chair, Legislative Affairs Committee

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