

Date: February 5, 2020
To: Senate Committee on General Government and Emergency Preparedness
From: Mike Harryman, State Resilience Officer
Subject: SB 1537 – Governor Brown’s Resiliency Bill

Chair Riley and members of the committee, I’m Mike Harryman, the State Resilience Officer.

I’m honored to be here and address this committee.

Today I will provide an overview of SB 1537, Governor Brown’s resiliency bill. As the State Resilience Officer (SRO) my priority focus is to direct, implement, and coordinate seismic safety with state agencies, tribes, and local communities. As the SRO, part of my work includes working with the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission, local and tribal emergency managers, non-profits, and professional associations to develop policies that reduce risks posed by the Cascadia Subduction Zone hazard and address other chronic hazards: tsunamis, landslides, floods, wildfires, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, winter storms, etc.

As Governor Brown says, *“We know it’s going to happen-- we don’t know when it is going to happen --we need to be prepared”*. This bill addresses mitigation efforts that will save lives and better prepare communities across the state. It is vital that we do the hard work of preparing now – before the next disaster – to save lives, and preserve infrastructure.

SB 1537 does the following:

- Directs the Office of Emergency Management to work with local governments, tribes and community groups to ensure that 250,000 households have 2-week ready supplies. The two-week ready campaign is critical because first responders won’t be able to reach everyone when disaster strikes. We need Oregonians to be able to help Oregonians immediately following a subduction zone earthquake.
- Directs the Homeland Security Council to identify 10 logistical staging bases. These bases are where state and federal responders will be delivering by air; food, water, fuel, medical and other supplies to communities we can’t reach following the subduction zone earthquake.
- This bill directs OEM to develop a concept of operations for these staging bases and Type 3-All-Hazard Incident Management Teams (IMT) to operate and sustain the bases.
- This bill funds the Earthquake Early Warning System – known as Shake Alert. This bill builds out seismic stations across our state that will be completed by 2023 as part of the West Coast Shake Alert System. This is a protective measure that will support critical infrastructure lifelines and provide the public early warnings so that they can take proactive measure to protect themselves.
- This bill directs Water Resource Department to evaluate dams in this state for structural and other safety issues, including risks to dams from extreme flooding and seismic events. They are directed to establish a taskforce whose work is vital to prioritize infrastructure funding

and identify approaches to prioritize the repair of dams and other dam safety projects. WRD will also evaluate and recommend funding mechanisms for dam repair and other dam safety projects.

- The Oregon Resilience Plan (ORP) turns seven years old this month. The plan includes a statewide long-term strategic resiliency plan for state, local and tribal governments and the private sector. This bill will develop a resiliency scorecard that facilitates assessment of state and local capabilities to respond to and recover from emergencies. We need to update our plan to include recommendations for best practices for large-scale debris removal, mitigation strategies for issues caused by the disconnection of areas from transportation networks, power grids or other infrastructure elements. And finally, this bill directs OSSPAC to initiate a public process, to update the boundaries of the tsunami inundation zone.

Today, other speakers will provide the committee with more insight into different parts of the bill. I look forward to working with the committee to move this bill forward.

References

Governor Kate Brown, Resiliency 2025 Vision, Improving Our Readiness for the Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami, October 16, 2018

Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC), the Oregon Resilience Plan, Reducing Risk and Improving Recovery for the Next Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami, February 2013

National Institute of Building Sciences, Mitigation Saves: 2018 Interim Report, date 2018