

My name is Patrick Long DVM. As a practicing veterinarian in Linn County, I would like to offer support and encourage funding of position for emergency management coordinator (line 110). This position is critical for the State of Oregon to be prepared for natural disasters as we saw with the wildfires last year and for foreign animal disease containment as we saw with the avian influence incursion a few years ago. The State Veterinarians office has been very proactive with limited resources in the past and has done a great job to date. Additional funding would enhance this program and ensure that we in Oregon are prepared for future events when, not if, they occur.

Having been a member of the Oregon Veterinary Emergency Response Team (OVERT) since its inception several years ago, I have participated in yearly trainings and have been deployed to assist in requests for service. Our trip to California to assist in the care of animals after their wildfires was a tremendous learning experience for all and speaks to the quality of our current program in the state.

I would encourage funding of this position to ensure the State of Oregon maintains and enhances the current emergency response program in place.

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