

RE HB 2927, Renames Office of Emergency Management as Oregon Department of Emergency Management

To Members of the House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Oregon faces complex natural and man-made risks & threats. These include wildlands fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, industrial accidents, pandemics, and even the threat of radiological devices (dirty bombs) being hidden in shipping containers coming into the Port of Portland.

What is troubling is that Oregon's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), as currently structured, is simply not up to the task of responding to any of these threats and risks in a meaningful and comprehensive manner. There have been two Secretary of State audits/reports (2014 & 2018) that find significant problems & deficiencies with the agency. There have been personnel issues that have resulted in significant and costly litigation. There is also a history of the Federal government seeking the return of three million dollars that was improperly spent by said agency. OEM needs to finally be brought into 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Representative Evan's bill, HB2927, is a comprehensive and well researched bill that meets the evolving needs and tasks of emergency management. It is imperative that the responsibilities of emergency management be moved from Oregon's Military Department and transition to a stand-alone agency.

I urge, in the strongest of terms, the adoption of HB 2927.

Respectively,

Matthew King  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123