



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING
PO Box 21719 Keizer OR 97307



OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
JOIN . SERVE . PROTECT .
PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: Members of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management

From: Executive Director Jason Myers
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
jason@oregonsheriffs.org

Executive Director Kevin Campbell
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police
kevin@victorygrp.com

Date: February 11, 2021

Re: Support of HB 2927 - Renaming and Reorganizing the Office of Emergency Management.

Chair Evans and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association of Chief of Police thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in full support of HB 2927.

This past fall, Western Oregon experienced wildfires that devastated numerous communities and stretched the resources of Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement in 10 plus counties all at the same time. The impacted counties quickly stood up their Emergency Operation Centers (EOC's) and relied heavily on the State Office of Emergency Management for support, coordination and resources. We cannot underscore the importance of having a unified emergency management system that is prepared for any and all disasters like the wildfires of 2020.

We fully support the intent of this measure to move management of the Office of Emergency to a standalone agency. We believe this change would modernize the agency, increase partnership with its counterpart local emergency management agencies across the state and more efficiently focus resources on the wide range of disasters that we must be prepared to address. The change would also provide autonomy to an agency that must be structured to move quickly to provide aid to local agencies.

As this measure moves forward and funding resources are appropriated, we ask that Oregon State Police funding be protected and the agency held harmless.

OSSA and OACP believes the impact of HB 2927 will directly improve the resilience of the State of Oregon, and we fully support this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.