

**DEB PATTERSON  
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL  
DISTRICT/DISTRITO 10**



**OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON**

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Tran, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Deb Patterson, State Senator from District 10, serving South and West Salem, Monmouth, and Independence. I would like to add my support for HB 2873, which would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the emergency preparedness equipment grant (SPIRE) program.

The SPIRE program was first approved in 2017, and was renewed in 2021, with expanded funding for equipment necessary for urban search and rescue operations. Equipment provided by the SPIRE program has included, among others, portable power generators, mobile water tankers, fuel transportation, rescue vehicles, communication units, snow vehicles, unmanned search and rescue vehicles, portable lighting. This equipment is crucial for meeting immediate needs during an emergency, and allows authorities to save lives by finding and rescuing people more quickly.

As climate change progresses, emergency preparedness is more important than ever. Oregon has experienced highly disruptive and dangerous wildfires, snowstorms, freezing temperatures, and heat waves. Many communities in the state need resources and equipment in order to respond to these events effectively. Oregon's people have been endangered as a result by issues such as power outages and impassable roads. Due to climate change, we can only expect these emergencies to become more commonplace, and it is essential that Oregon adapt by providing communities the resources they need. This legislation, by allowing emergency and lifesaving equipment to be provided to local communities, would meet immediate emergency needs.

For the health and safety of all Oregonians during an emergency, it is vital that we provide emergency preparedness resources and equipment to communities that need them. I urge your aye vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Patterson