

**To: Members of the Joint-Transportation Committee**

**From: Bill Burgel**  
**Registered Geologist – Oregon & Idaho**

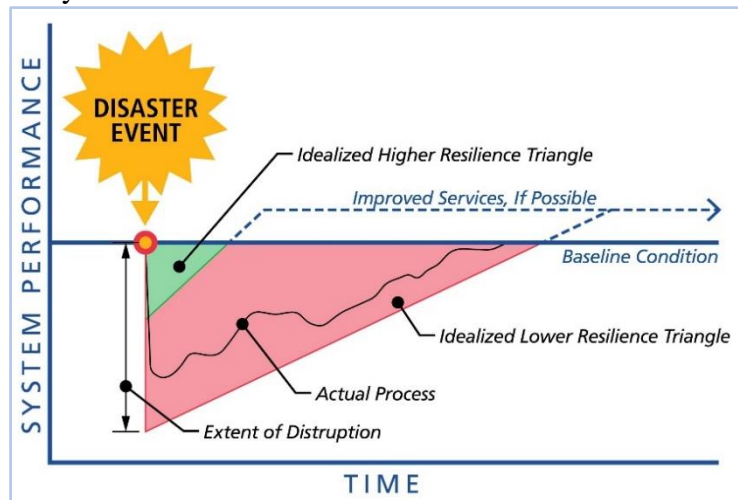
**Date: May 4, 2023**

**Re: HB 2098 (Dash 2) Interstate 5 Bridge Replacement - Testimony in SUPPORT**

**Co-Chair McLain, Co-Chair Frederick, and Members of the Committee,**

Communities that fail to adequately prepare for known disasters have a history of taking YEARS to recover to regain their former stature; in some cases, they never recover. Dr. Lucy Jones, former seismologist for the US Geological Survey, has repeatedly emphasized that communities must spend money BEFORE a disaster strikes if only to survive and then rebuild in the aftermath.

This sketch indicates several scenarios that could occur depending on a community's level of preparedness. The Interstate Bridge Replacement Project is a case in point. From the point of view of the Pacific Northwest, it is imperative to maintain this vital link connecting our communities. Indeed, from a national viewpoint, the entire nation relies on us to do the right thing in being prepared for the earthquake we know is coming.



Preparedness should be a mantra that guides us throughout our budget. Japan and Chile have shown us the best possible outcomes following a major seismic event with minimal loss-of-life and structural damage. San Francisco took 60 years to recover from their 1906 earthquake and we all know that New Orleans is a shadow of its former stature following the devastation inflicted by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

One lesson Katrina taught us is worth repeating: In 2002, several years before Katrina struck, the US Army Corps of Engineers submitted a \$14 Billion budget to Congress for approval to rebuild the entire levee system protecting New Orleans. Congress turned down this request. Following the serious damage suffered by Katrina which included numerous neighborhoods being flooded by failed levees, the Corps once again approached Congress to rebuild the levees surrounding New Orleans. The cost? \$14 Billion. The lesson? Regardless of the time you appropriate the money, you still will need to spend it. The important factor in this case is to have the wisdom to spend the money before disaster strikes and then you'll have the facility available for use as you recover from the disaster that's sure to occur. And improving your infrastructure before the disaster could render the disaster survivable and minimize associated pain and suffering by your populace.