



January 29, 2025

TO: House Committee on Emergency
Management, General Government, and
Veterans

As the voice of Oregon architects, AIA Oregon is the state's chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), providing over 1,500 members with practice resources, professional continuing education and advocating for sound public policies that support livable, sustainable communities everywhere.

In 2025 AIA Oregon requested introduction of HB 2270, which established the office of State Resilience Officer in the office of the Governor. The office of State Resilience Officer was tasked in this initial bill with directing, implementing and coordinating seismic safety and resilience goal setting and state agency planning and preparation to improve seismic safety and resilience.

Creating the office of the State Resilience Officer was the number one recommendation of both the *Oregon Resilience Plan (ORP)*, and the Oregon Resilience Task Force who was tasked with its implementation. They found that it is essential to have someone directly responsible for the implementation of seismic and resilience measures who could advise the State on priorities.

Since that time, our understanding of the breadth of "resilience" has truly changed. Initially focused on seismic resilience, our current conditions, disasters, and neighboring state crises have indeed expanded what our state must adjust and plan in order to be resilient.

While the list of hazards in HB 2582 clearly says "including but not limited to" we believe detailing more of the catastrophes that are encompassed on the State Resilience Officer purview is helpful and certainly informative of the public as to what our executive branch is working toward. We do offer one suggested change for consideration:

"...including but not limited to planning and preparation for safety and resilience during and after earthquake, tsunami, wildfire, flooding, **landslide, drought** and other natural or manmade events **governor declared disaster.**"

Oregon can be proud of its efforts in resilience planning. We have garnered national attention as a rare example of a State preparing for a large disaster before it occurs. The ORP has influenced national resilience efforts. It was one of the key documents used by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to create the Community Resilience Planning Guidelines that set national resilience standards. We urge your support of HB 2581.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heather Wilson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Heather Wilson, EVP/ CEO, AIA Oregon