



LINK
OREGON

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February 14, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education Committee and Workforce Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 3219 - Sustained State Funding for Oregon Hazards Lab

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Harbick and Fragala, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 3219 as introduced this session by Representatives Nathanson and Grayber and Senators Campos and Manning Jr. HB 3219 will establish sustained state funding for the Oregon Hazards Lab (OHAZ) at the University of Oregon

I serve as the executive director of Link Oregon, a non-profit organization established by the state's four largest research universities, including the University of Oregon, and the State of Oregon's Enterprise Information Services unit. Link Oregon's principal mission is to operate a statewide, facilities-based, middle-mile network to serve both the public and the non-profit sectors across Oregon. OHAZ has been a long-time partner of Link Oregon, and we provide digital transport services over our statewide backbone for their hazards detection locations in central and eastern Oregon.

OHAZ is a critical asset to disaster preparedness and response efforts in Oregon and adjacent states. Through its seismic, wildfire, and remote sensing networks, OHAZ provides real-time, life-saving data that helps emergency responders and communities mitigate the impact of earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, and other disasters.

In particular, the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning System can provide crucial seconds of advance notice before severe shaking begins, allowing Oregonians to take protective action. Additionally, OHAZ's wildfire detection and situational awareness systems are increasingly vital in an era of escalating fire risk, enhancing rapid response and reducing destruction. These programs are not theoretical—they are active, operational systems that directly protect lives and property.

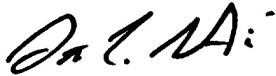
Investing in OHAZ is a smart financial decision. Hazard monitoring and early warning systems save Oregon millions of dollars by reducing disaster response costs, infrastructure damage, and economic disruption. Without sustained state funding to maintain and expand its infrastructure, the long-term viability of these programs is at risk, leaving our communities more vulnerable at a time when proactive resilience planning is more critical than ever.

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We urge you to take decisive action by passing HB 3219 and securing the future of OHAZ. Doing so will ensure Oregon remains a leader in disaster resilience, protecting lives, property, and the state's economic well-being.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input. We appreciate your leadership in advancing policies that safeguard our communities, and we stand ready to support you in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven C. Corbató". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct flourish at the end.

Steven C. Corbató, Ph.D.
Executive Director