



Cascadia Region Earthquake Science Center
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403
<http://www.cascadiaquakes.org>

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

Subject: Support for House Bill 3219 – Sustained State Funding for the Oregon Hazards Lab

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

On behalf of the Cascadia Region Earthquake Science Center (CRESCENT), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 3219, which seeks to establish sustained state funding for the Oregon Hazards Lab (OHAZ) at the University of Oregon. As a research center focused on earthquake science and societal resilience, we recognize the vital role that the Oregon Hazards Lab plays in ensuring the safety and security of Oregonians in the face of natural and human-made hazards.

The hundreds of seismic monitoring stations that OHAZ maintains are part of the Advanced National Seismic System. The data that the sensors produce underpin most of our understanding about earthquake, volcano, and tsunami hazards in the region. Without those observing stations, maintained by OHAZ with over 95% reliability, centers like CRESCENT would not be able to carry out cutting-edge scientific research in service of advancing the region's earthquake resilience.

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.



We urge you to take decisive action by passing House Bill 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 your time and consideration. 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 "Diego Melgar". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Diego Melgar
Director, CRESCENT
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