



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
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DATE: February 19, 2025
TO: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer
RE: HB 3219, Relating to the Oregon Hazards Lab at the University of Oregon

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

Lane County strongly supports HB 3219, establishing sustained state funding for the Oregon Hazards Lab (OHAZ) at the University of Oregon. We share recognition in the vital role that OHAZ plays when planning for natural and human-made hazards to ensure the safety and security of Oregonians.

OHAZ plays a necessary role in disaster preparedness and response across Oregon and neighboring states. Its seismic, wildfire, and remote sensing networks deliver real time, life-saving data that enables emergency responders and communities to better manage and reduce the impacts of natural hazards. OHAZ's ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning System, with 19 monitoring stations in Lane County, provide crucial seconds of warning before an earthquake begins, giving Oregonians the opportunity to take protective action. Additionally, OHAZ's wildfire detection and situational awareness systems, including 10 wildfire detection cameras in Lane County, have become increasingly indispensable as fire risks grow across Oregon, enabling faster response times.

Supporting this funding can save the state a significant financial burden by reducing emergency response expenses, limiting infrastructure damage with early detection, and mitigating economic disruption. Without continued state funding, these critical programs could be compromised, leaving communities more exposed at a time when proactive resilience measures are needed.

Lane County appreciates your leadership and encourages the passage of HB 3219, securing the future of OHAZ in building disaster resilience for our communities.

**ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER**