



SUNRIVER SERVICE DISTRICT FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Sunriver Fire Department
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House Committee on Higher Education 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 Sunriver Fire Department, 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 public safety organization dedicated to protecting the lives and property of our community, 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.

At Sunriver Fire Department, we use the wildfire detection cameras provided through OHAZ on a daily basis. These cameras are critical to our early warning capabilities, allowing us to identify and respond to potential wildfire threats before they escalate. This technology enhances our situational awareness, improving both response times and operational effectiveness, which is essential in safeguarding our community during wildfire season.

OHAZ is a crucial asset to disaster preparedness and response efforts in Oregon and neighboring 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. Programs such as the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning System offer critical seconds of advance notice before severe shaking begins, while the wildfire detection systems support rapid response, reducing destruction and protecting both lives and property.

Investing in OHAZ is not only essential for public safety—it also makes financial sense. Hazard monitoring and early warning systems save Oregon millions of dollars by reducing disaster response costs, minimizing infrastructure damage, and mitigating 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,



Bill Boos
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