

Emerson Levy
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 53



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, Members of the Committee,

I am honored to Chief Sponsor House Bill 3084- legislation that addresses our critical need for enhanced emergency management infrastructure and coordination in our state.

As you know, Central, Eastern, Coastal, Western, Southern Oregon, and the Pacific Northwest are facing growing threats from natural disasters that can severely impact our families, our communities, and our economy, including wildfires, public health crises, and of course the anticipated Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake.

Central Oregon is a rapidly growing region with insufficient facilities to meet our existing training needs of local and state public safety and emergency management personnel. We desperately need a dedicated, multi-disciplinary & multi-agency coordination center for emergency operations, which the CORE3 center will provide. All of Oregon east of the Cascades needs a more convenient, centralized location for this type of critical training.

Importantly, this bill directs state agencies to collaborate with local and regional officials in the development and planning of the CORE3 center. From transportation, to fire safety, to public health, by working together we will ensure emergency operations are seamlessly coordinated. A key point of this legislation is that it formally requires state agencies to follow legislative intent to integrate CORE3 into our state disaster planning- accelerating the process of development and use.

As will be mentioned, FEMA has already designated the Redmond Airport and surrounding area as THE location in the state for major recovery operations, and the proximity to the large and modern fairgrounds facility nearby is an added benefit.

Of course, financial sustainability is crucial for the long-term use of this facility. So, all the state agencies involved will evaluate and decide if it is in the long-term interest of the state to provide financial support for the center's operations. These findings will be reported back to us in the Legislature. The financial investment of \$15.75 million in this bill for the development and construction of the CORE3 center is crucial in serving the people of Oregon, ensuring we are prepared for future emergencies. Chair, Vice-Chairs, Members of the Committee, let's not wait until it's too late. Let's act now.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Levy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping tail.

Emerson Levy

State Representative, HD 53