



Dear Chair Jones and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rick Hudson, and I am the co-founder of Fixed Resilience LLC. I am here today in support of House Bill 2346.

My 37 years in public service, primarily within the fire service, instilled in me a deep commitment to community safety. As a first responder, I worked directly with the public daily, addressing their needs and emergencies. Following this, I served as the Emergency Manager for a small, high-risk Oregon coastal community for five years. This role required extensive collaboration with public safety responders, emergency volunteers, community businesses, and city and county officials to ensure preparedness for isolation events.

Since 2021, I've witnessed OREM's exceptional work connecting with and supporting local communities. Over the past five years, they have been the most consistently present governmental body during numerous challenges, including wildfires, COVID, severe storms, heat and cold emergencies, drinking water crises, the opioid and fentanyl crisis, and displacement of thousands of Oregonians.

Without OREM, effective and sustained communication between the state and local citizens during these crises would be impossible. Before OREM's involvement, local citizens relied heavily on often overwhelmed volunteer firefighters, law enforcement, or county emergency managers. I have personally experienced the frustration and disconnect that arise when these connections are not established and maintained.

To be effectively transparent, without a group connecting the local community up to the state governments operational platforms there is a natural disconnect that consistently fractures when strained. It is important to remember.

“You don’t hand out business cards at the Command Post”

OREM has been instrumental in bridging this gap, proactively delivering essential resources to high-risk communities. They embody the ideals of effective governance, acting and fulfilling promises. I have collaborated with several local and regional OREM cells, witnessing their effectiveness in providing resources to cities, community groups, emergency volunteers, and individuals.

OREM's role is unique and often misunderstood. They are not solely first responders, emergency managers, or social workers, but rather an essential link connecting all these entities. They recognize that all incidents, regardless of scale, originate and conclude at the local level.



In closing, I urge you to recognize OREM's vital role and support the expansion of their work. They are the shepherds who ensure that communities are not left behind.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Hudson
Fixed Resilience LLC