

Submitter: Kelley Minty
On Behalf Of: Klamath County
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2346

Klamath has been no stranger to wildfire as our county has had home losses due to wildfire every year for the past five years. OREM staff have supported Klamath Basin homeowners with sheltering and recovery efforts since the creation of their agency in 2020. Thru this work in the Klamath Basin OREM staff has assisted with evacuation, sheltering and recovery efforts of Klamath basin homeowners and have worked hand in hand with county leadership and community partners to establish the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) group to address short and long term disaster recovery efforts which just had a fantastic response to our most recent 2025 Inclement Weather Response during our winter storm.

OREM stepped up to the plate in 2021 to assist Klamath Basin homeowners with their dry well concerns and thru case management have diligently worked with homeowners to get their wells drilled and homeowners moved onto self-sufficiency. OREM had also worked with the local community college in Klamath to start their well drilling apprenticeship program in an effort to bolster the well drilling career field in Oregon.

The benefits of OREM having staff that reside in various areas of the state assists with their multi prong approach to having staff that not only work in the community but are part of the community. This approach ensured that community are best served by one of their own and understands the various aspects of the communities they serve and how to best represent them. I have first-hand seen that OREM truly embodies their motto of “working together, we can reduce the impacts of disaster on people