



**OREGON HOUSING *and*
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
From: Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS)
Date: March 4, 2025

RE: HB 2346, Creating the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 2346, which will create the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) within the Oregon Department of Human Services. For context, OHCS' Disaster Recovery and Resilience division, like OREM, was founded in response to the massive destruction of the 2020 Labor Day wildfires and straight-line winds. OHCS was funded by the Legislature and the federal government to support housing and community recovery and has used existing programs to support the development of permanent replacement housing for Oregonians impacted by the fires.

OREM has been a close partner with OHCS throughout the recovery process. Its support and collaboration have been instrumental in effectively and comprehensively supporting the individuals and families impacted by the disaster. Without its work, many of the accomplishments made since 2020 wouldn't have been possible.

It's with this background in mind that we ask you to pass HB 2346. The bill provides additional clarity on OREM's roles and responsibilities, streamlining the Office's ability to support Tribes and counties during emergencies. The bill establishes, within statute, the responsibilities that have already been assigned to ODHS and OREM over several years through state plans like the CEMP, one-time legislative funding, and special appropriations. By clarifying and consolidating such responsibilities into statute, OREM will receive a clear statutory basis to act and support the safety and well-being of Oregonians before, during, and after disasters.

We are grateful for our continued partnership with OREM as we continue working toward a shared vision of recovery and resilience. Together, we can ensure that when disaster strikes, Oregonians are protected. OHCS asks for your support for HB 2346 and the creation of the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management within the Oregon Department of Human Services.

In partnership,

Henry Taylor-Goalby
Legislative Coordinator, Disaster Recovery and Resilience
Oregon Housing and Community Services

