



Service Employees
International Union
Local 503

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To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for HB 2753

Date: April 3, 2025

Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Powers and I advocate for the approximately 70,000 workers represented by our Union, SEIU Local 503. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2753.

Our represented working families live in every county across Oregon, reflecting the state's overall population distribution. Many of these workers, particularly in rural areas, have been profoundly impacted by natural disasters, including devastating wildfires. This bill is a crucial investment in our rural communities and their working families.

HB 2753 authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to support the Emergency Preparedness Equipment Grant Program, generating an estimated \$15 million. The legislation directs these funds to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management for deposit into the Resiliency Grant Fund.

By providing grants for critical emergency equipment, this legislation will enhance Oregon's ability to respond more swiftly and effectively to natural disasters. Investing in preparedness not only has the potential to save lives but also reduces economic losses. By strengthening emergency response capabilities, this bill promotes equitable access to preparedness resources across both urban and rural areas. Additionally, improved disaster response and recovery can help minimize work disruptions for Oregon's families.

Utilizing Oregon bonds to fund this initiative ensures that the state can invest in long-term resilience without placing an immediate burden on the budget. This fiscally responsible approach allows for proactive planning while safeguarding communities against future crises.

Emergency preparedness is a key component of public safety, and HB 2753 reflects sound governance by addressing the growing risks posed by natural disasters. Supporting this bill signals a strong commitment to your constituents and working families across the state.

We urge your full support of HB 2753 to strengthen Oregon's emergency readiness and protect communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.