

## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 5517

Submitted by: Sage DeLong, Emergency Manager, Umatilla County

Date: April 8, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 5517, which provides vital funding for the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) for the 2025-2027 biennium.

As the Emergency Manager for Umatilla County, I want to emphasize the importance of reliable, long-term investment in our emergency management infrastructure. This bill supports statewide preparedness, response, and recovery efforts that directly impact communities like mine across Oregon.

### Stable Funding at the Local Level

With more than 83% of ODEM staff funded by federal dollars, local emergency managers are increasingly concerned about the long-term sustainability of our systems. Programs like the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) provide critical operational funding-but they are not guaranteed year to year. Any reduction or delay in these funds can severely impact local capabilities. SB 5517 reinforces the need for a dependable baseline of state support to keep emergency management offices functioning.

### Support for Readiness, Recovery, and Resilience

The funding allocations in this bill provide the tools we need to:

- Respond quickly and effectively to disasters through Preparedness and Response funding (\$6.5M General Fund, \$11.1M Other Funds, \$63M Federal).
- Support long-term community recovery efforts through Mitigation and Recovery funding (\$497K General Fund, \$24.5M Other Funds, \$1.03B Federal).
- Ensure uninterrupted 9-1-1 operations, including Next Generation 9-1-1 expansion, which is essential for modern emergency communication.
- Improve statewide coordination and situational awareness through continued investment in crisis management software and integrated communication systems.

### Local Integration and Field Support

ODEM's Regional Coordinator (RC) program and statewide training and exercise programs are indispensable-especially in rural and frontier counties like Umatilla. These resources help ensure consistent standards, connect local agencies to state resources, and build capacity for response and recovery across Oregon.

SB 5517 reflects the reality that emergency management is no longer seasonal or reactive-it is full-time, year-round, and mission-critical. I urge the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to fully fund SB 5517 and continue supporting a system that protects the lives, property, and resilience of every Oregonian.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
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