

April 8, 2025

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, Hearing Room 174
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Evans and Broadman, and Members of the Committee,
On behalf of the City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) and the Bureau of Emergency Communications, I urge your Support for Senate Bill 5517, which provides essential funding through the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) to strengthen emergency preparedness and response across the state.

Oregon continues to face increasing emergencies driven by extreme weather, wildfires, and the looming threat of the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. These challenges demand urgent and sustained investment in local and statewide emergency management infrastructure. Like OEM, PBEM is committed to building community resilience by promoting readiness, coordinating disaster response, and implementing strategic plans that advance mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

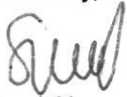
We greatly value our strong partnership with OEM and the direct support they provide to local governments. In 2024, PBEM received \$303,940 through the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. These funds have been foundational to our ability to plan for hazards, conduct training and exercises, and engage Portlanders in preparedness efforts. Without this support, our ability to maintain and grow our emergency readiness would be significantly diminished.

OEM's impact reaches beyond PBEM. It also supports our Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC) through the statewide 9-1-1 program. BOEC relies on this program's infrastructure to connect emergency calls to the right responders, using accurate location data and system functionality funded by the state's 9-1-1 tax. OEM also delivers critical resources through its Homeland Security and SPIRE grant programs. In recent years, the Portland Police Bureau received \$47,265 for bomb squad equipment, and Portland Fire & Rescue received a 700-gallon fuel transporter to support emergency response operations.

Senate Bill 5517 ensures that local jurisdictions like Portland have the capacity to act swiftly and effectively when disaster strikes. These investments are not only necessary—they are lifesaving. As disasters grow in frequency and severity, we must ensure that emergency management programs across Oregon are equipped with the tools, training, and technology they need to protect communities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support of SB 5517 and stand ready to continue partnering with OEM to build a safer and more resilient Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shad'.

Shad Ahmed

Director, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Cozzie'.

Bob Cozzie

Director, Portland Bureau of Emergency Communications