

February 13, 2026

Co-Chair	Senator Fred Girod
Co-Chair	Representative Rob Nosse
Member	Senator Lew Frederick
Member	Senator Kate Lieber
Member	Senator Mike McLane
Member	Senator Rob Wagner
Member	Representative Lucetta Elmer
Member	Representative Jason Kropf
Member	Representative Nancy Nathanson
Member	Representative Gregory Smith

Re: Support for HB 4121

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

We are writing to urge you to consider funding the requests contained in HB4121, a critical state emergency planning, preparation and response bill, as an integral part the 2026 or 2027 budget.

Rep. Paul Evans has worked closely over the past 18 months with a bi-partisan group of legislators from around the state, as well as with all the key state agencies, on this important bill to streamline and re-align Oregon's system for responding to natural (and other) disasters.

This bill will literally save lives. It will clear up communications issues between first responders and state and federal agencies. It will invest in sorely needed DPSST training for law enforcement and fire personnel. And it allows full Phase 1 construction of the CORE3 joint training/response site in Central Oregon, which has all state and federal agencies at the table. CORE3 and the adjacent airport/fairgrounds is Oregon's official FEMA designated response site.

Additionally, investing in capital construction generates millions in tax revenues, and puts Oregonians to work, an added benefit during uncertain economic times. Bond expenditure literally pays its way over time.

The House Emergency Management Committee unanimously passed HB4121, and it will be considered in the overall budget framework by you in the Ways and Means Committee. If funding is not available this year, we still urge that the base bill be passed, so that work can begin immediately. A Cascadia or other major disaster could come at any time, and local and state agencies will both benefit from the thoughtful changes contained in the bill. Then, state financial support could be allocated in 2027, when our economic situation has hopefully rebounded.

Sincerely,

Tammy Baney

Tammy Baney, Executive Director COIC

Chief Mike Krantz, City of Bend Police Department, Vice Chair CORE 3