

# **BEFORE OREGON HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, GENERAL GOVERNMENT, AND VETRANS – HB 2151**



24 February 2025

**Chair Representative Thuy Tran**

**Vice-Chair Representative Dacia Graber**

**Vice-Chair Representative Rick Lewis**

**Members of the Committee**

**RE: HB 2151 Appropriates funds for State and local government agencies, businesses or individuals to plan and prepare for consequences of earthquake**

This Bill does not declare an emergency for its enactment but must, since the routine 90-day suspense contradicts the urgency for early action.

The remit for Oregon Emergency Management begins after the emergency event is recognized. This Bill enables investment in planning to stem the huge costs that accrue after-the-fact, for example, investment in infrastructure that anticipates and accounts for the 100% loss of fuel delivered from Washington's tsunami-exposed refinery infrastructure. Two new seismic-protected fuel depots are needed east of the Oregon Cascades.

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Increasing demands for FEMA relief and rebuild are driving high economic inflation. 24 February 2025  
Evidence shows that earthquake mitigation ahead of time obviates at least 10x the cost of recovery after. Benefit cost ratios (BCRs) are known for typical hazards.

| National Institute of<br><b>BUILDING SCIENCES</b>  |  | ADOPT CODE     | ABOVE CODE | BUILDING RETROFIT | LIFELINE RETROFIT | FEDERAL GRANTS |
|--|--|----------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>Overall Benefit-Cost Ratio</b>  |  | <b>11:1</b>    | <b>4:1</b> | <b>4:1</b>        | <b>4:1</b>        | <b>6:1</b>     |
| <b>Cost (\$ billion)</b>   |  | \$1/year       | \$4/year   | \$520             | \$0.6             | \$27           |
| <b>Benefit (\$ billion)</b>  |  | \$13/year      | \$16/year  | \$2200            | \$2.5             | \$160          |
|  <b>Riverine Flood</b>                  |  | <b>6:1</b>     | <b>5:1</b> | <b>6:1</b>        | <b>8:1</b>        | <b>7:1</b>     |
|  <b>Hurricane Surge</b>                 |  | not applicable | <b>7:1</b> | not applicable    | not applicable    | not applicable |
|  <b>Wind</b>                            |  | <b>10:1</b>    | <b>5:1</b> | <b>6:1</b>        | <b>7:1</b>        | <b>5:1</b>     |
|  <b>Earthquake</b>                      |  | <b>12:1</b>    | <b>4:1</b> | <b>13:1</b>       | <b>3:1</b>        | <b>3:1</b>     |
|  <b>Wildland-Urban Interface Fire</b> |  | not applicable | <b>4:1</b> | <b>2:1</b>        | not applicable    | <b>3:1</b>     |

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**TABLE 1.** Nationwide average benefit-cost ratio by hazard and mitigation measure. BCRs can vary geographically and can be much higher in some places. Find more details in the report.

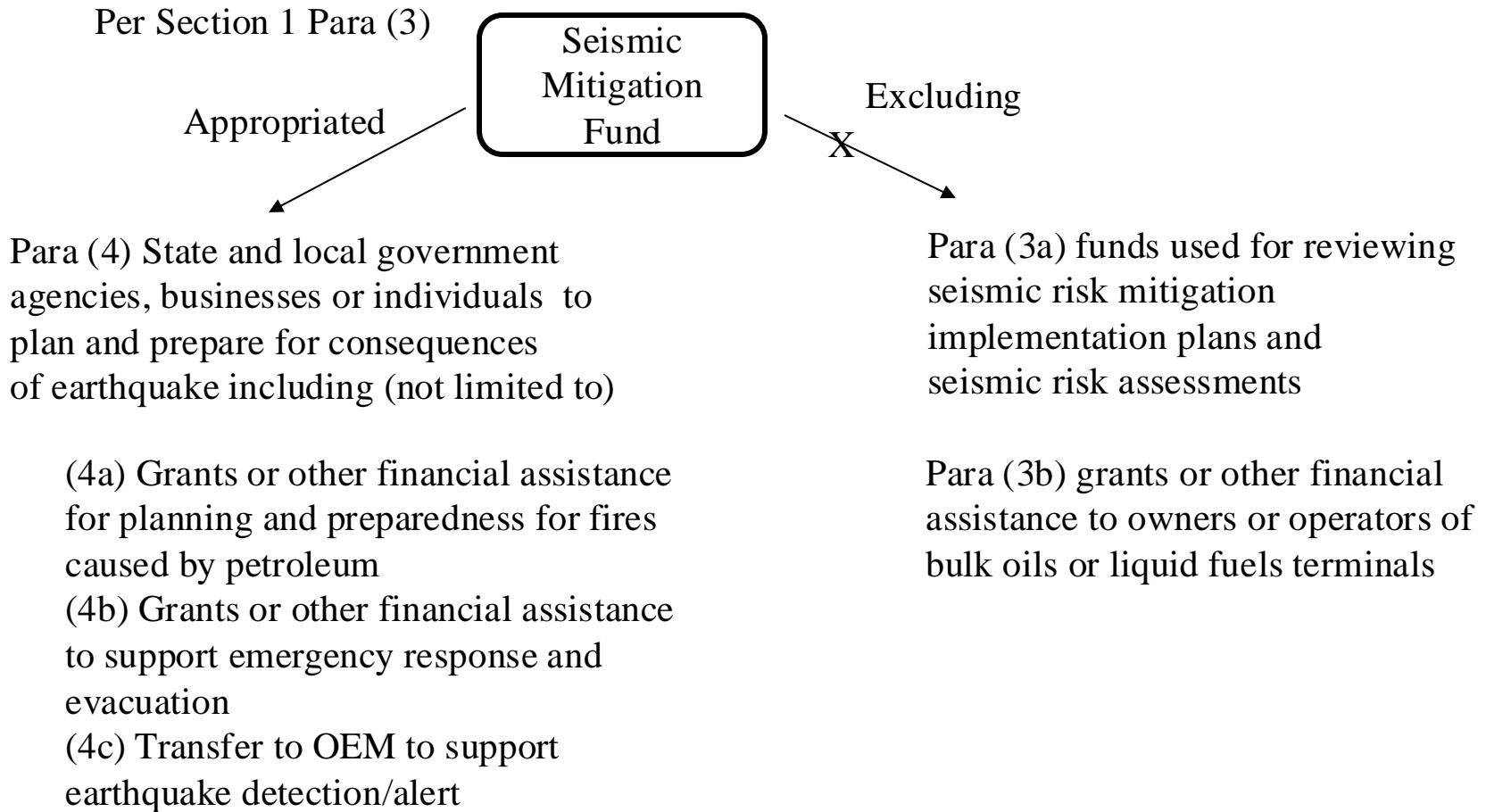
[https://www.nibs.org/files/pdfs/ms\\_v3\\_adopts\\_earthquake.pdf](https://www.nibs.org/files/pdfs/ms_v3_adopts_earthquake.pdf)

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Diagramming the structure of the bill



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Per Section 1 Para (3)

Appropriated

Seismic  
Mitigation  
Fund

Excluding

Already funded - DEQ



Para (4) State and local government agencies, businesses or individuals to plan and prepare for consequences of earthquake including (not limited to)



(4a) Grants or other financial assistance for planning and preparedness for fires caused by petroleum



Para (3a) funds used for reviewing seismic risk mitigation implementation plans and seismic risk assessments



Para (3b) grants or other financial assistance to owners or operators of bulk oils or liquid fuels terminals



(4b) Grants or other financial assistance to support emergency response and evacuation

Oregon CEI Hub operators are liable.  
Why would W&M approve acceptance of this unbounded risk?



(4c) Transfer to OEM to support earthquake detection/alert

OEM already funded to do this

OEM already funded to do this

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This prescient Bill is urgently needed, with significant amendments as noted.

Thank you for early attention to hazard mitigation in advance of the inevitable.

Respectfully,

Tracy Farwell, Sustainability Desk; SD23, HD 46

[Better Energy LLC](#)