



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
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DATE: March 5, 2025
TO: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer
RE: HB 2151, Relating to Seismic Risk Mitigation

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

Lane County strongly supports HB 2151, expanding the permissible uses of the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund to better prepare our communities for the devastating effects of earthquakes.

Lane County is home to a diverse landscape, including urban centers, rural communities, and vital infrastructure that supports both local and statewide economic activity. However, we are also uniquely vulnerable to seismic events, including the long-anticipated Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Expanding the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund is essential to ensuring the safety and resiliency of our communities by:

- Enhancing Earthquake Preparedness: By providing financial assistance for emergency response and evacuation route planning, this bill empowers Lane County to develop stronger, community-specific preparedness strategies. Planning that is tailored to our diverse geographical diversity ensures the safety of our residents.
- Mitigating Fire Risk from Fuel Spills: Lane County hosts critical fuel transport routes and storage facilities that could pose significant hazards in the event of an earthquake. The inclusion of grants for fire prevention related to oil and liquid fuel spills will help us prevent catastrophic secondary disasters.
- Supporting Earthquake Early Detection and Alerts: Investment in early warning systems is an essential step in reducing loss of life and property damage. Lane County stands to benefit immensely from enhanced coordination with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

HB 2151 represents a forward-thinking approach to seismic risk management, ensuring that resources are available to address vulnerabilities before disaster strikes. Lane County is ready to partner with the state in implementing these much-needed preparedness measures, and we urge this bill's passage.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER