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Thursday, June 13, 2019

Carla Piluso

Chair, Subcommittee on Public Safety
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-276
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for HB 2206

Dear Representative Piluso:

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) **supports** *Oregon House Bill 2206: Development of a State Safety Assessment Program*, which would create a safety assessment program that will facilitate a faster, more effective response and recovery following a major natural disaster in Oregon, particularly a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami.

EERI is an international, nonprofit technical society of experts dedicated to reducing earthquake risk. In this role, EERI advocates for comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the destructive effects of earthquakes. EERI membership includes professionals in a wide range of seismic safety-related scientific and design disciplines, including but not limited to architects, planners, social scientists, seismologists, structural engineers, geotechnical engineers, and public policy professionals, many of whom are proud Oregon residents.

While EERI's focus and expertise is in earthquake disasters, we believe that HB 2206 will develop fast and reliable building damage assessments after any of the natural disasters that Oregon faces. Rapid communication of post-disaster building assessment information has proven crucial after past disasters, both in protecting life safety and in providing the peace of mind needed for the public to return to their daily lives, thus increasing the community's resilience. This bill follows the work of California and Washington state with similar seismic hazards and falls in line with EERI's standing [Position Statement on Resilient Communities](#).

As an internationally recognized authority on seismic engineering and safety for more than 70 years, EERI **endorses** HB 2206. We urge the Subcommittee on Public Safety to support the passage of this bill to build a more resilient Oregon. Thank you for considering EERI's position on this important seismic safety issue.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Johnson
EERI President