



NANCY NATHANSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 13
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 24, 2020

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
Oregon House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4119

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I write this to explain my 'no' vote on HB 4119, regarding tsunami design standards for certain buildings and structures. I understand the need to have better standards for buildings located in the inundation zone. I voted 'no' because I remain concerned about the point which underpins this bill: that it is okay to build new critical facilities in the hazard zone.

Scientists have estimated that the Cascadia subduction zone is overdue for a magnitude 9 earthquake, similar to the one that devastated Japan in 2011. Earthquake preparedness involves preventing residents from being in high risk areas when the shaking begins, such as bridges, overpasses, and the inundation zone. It also involves building our capacity for disaster response. Constructing essential public facilities like hospitals, fire and police stations, and schools in the inundation zone ignores the first goal and burdens the latter. The only way to protect these services from tsunami risk is to build them outside of the tsunami zone.

Sincerely,

Nancy Nathanson

