

**ANDREA SALINAS**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 38



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 21, 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 appreciate the continued, thoughtful efforts of the Coastal Caucus to work on legislation that prioritizes tsunami mitigation, public safety, and economic growth. Balancing all of these considerations is a difficult task.

Last session, I voted in favor of HB 3309, which repealed the restriction that new essential facilities may not be constructed in tsunami inundation zones. Upon reflection and after many conversations, I am concerned about the implications of that vote.

While I appreciate that HB 4119 adds standards where currently none exist, I worry that those standards are not stringent enough. After listening to Dr. Chris Goldfinger's testimony in the House Committee on Natural Resources, where he shared his concerns about the limitations of the ASCE-7 standards, I question why the legislation did not go further in requiring stronger standards. I also appreciate that the Chief Sponsors pushed the implementation date to July 2021 in order to allow for the possibility of stronger guidelines to be added in the next legislative session but those stronger standards are uncertain and may not ultimately be implemented. For these reasons, I could not vote in favor of a bill that I believe could be creating a false sense of security from tsunami devastation for coastal Oregonians and those who visit.

I hope that there will continue to be conversations around this issue, because I know all parties want what is best to promote public safety and trust, while also supporting our coastal economies. I am confident that the rich wealth of knowledge held by Oregon's scientists, engineers and emergency planners can help continue to guide this conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Salinas".

Andrea Salinas  
State Representative, District 38