



University of Nevada, Reno

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Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members
of the committee

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Subject: House Bill 5005 Testimony

As Nevada State Seismologist and Chief Architect of ALERTWildfire, I applaud and strongly support the \$12M initiative to build out ALERTWildfire and ShakeAlert infrastructure throughout Oregon. By co-investing in sensors for ShakeAlert earthquake early warning, near-Infrared cameras for ALERTWildfire, and telemetry to allow real-time communication and resiliency, the state will be advancing a multi-hazard approach to disaster response and mitigation. Ultimately, Oregon will have no choice but to build out both networks, and yet, sooner adoption of this multihazard approach will not only save significant sums of money, but contribute to a better, more coordinated system. The 2018 fire season in Oregon was record breaking and highlights the immediate need to adopt the “San Diego County model” for quick and decisive fire suppression during the initial phase of fire ignition, especially during red flag days. ALERTWildfire is well into building 1000 cameras in California, with 130 new cameras being installed in the past 4 months, and potentially another 260 more cameras in 2019 (174 cameras in California as of May 1st, 2019). California is now investing \$200M on new technologies and innovation (e.g., AI smoke detection, messaging) with respect to early suppression of wildfire, monitoring of the electrical system, etc.; this is beyond the \$50+ M investment in ALERTWildfire cameras. The present \$12M ask in Oregon will go a long way towards spinning up a truly modern fire camera system that will greatly benefit from California’s current investment (i.e., IOU utilities and state funding). The early suppression of fires in San Diego County and Lake Tahoe (where ALERTWildfire cameras played a pivotal role) during significant weather events (i.e., low humidity and strong wind) provides a road map for other states (e.g., Nevada is also considering a more rapid deployment of ALERTWildfire; 26 total at present). The immediate need to address the “New Normal” is ever present, and I look forward to working with Oregon to address this emergency.

Sincerely,

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