

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND  
TRANSPORTATION**

February 06, 2001 Hearing Room 343  
03:00 pm Tapes 22 - 25

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**        **Sen. Gary George, Chair**  
                                  **Sen. Rick Metsger, Vice-Chair**  
                                  **Sen. Sen. Margaret Carter**  
                                  **Sen. Sen. Beverly Clarno**  
                                  **Sen. Sen. Ken Messerle**

**STAFF PRESENT:**        **Patrick Balducci, Administrator**  
                                  **Nancy Masee, Administrative Support**

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**  
                                  **Introduction of Committee Bills LC 69, LC 163, LC 244, LC 841, LC 1629,**  
                                  **LC 1630, LC 1790, LC 1996, LC 1997, LC 2556, LC 2586, LC 2918, LC 2991**  
                                  **SB 13 Public Hearing**  
                                  **SB 14 Public Hearing**  
                                  **SB 15 Public Hearing**

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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<b>TAPE/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TAPE 22, A</b>		
004	Sen. Gary George	Chair. Opens meeting at 3:05 pm.
008	Bill Penhollow	Association of Oregon Counties. Introduces Judge Nora Pryor, Gilliam County, and Steve McClure, Union County Commissioner, President Association of Oregon Counties <b>(EXHIBIT A)</b> .
010	Steve McClure	Union County Commissioner and President of the Association of Oregon Counties. Gives background on counties and the services they provide to citizens. Describes differences in counties. Discusses county law enforcement and judicial systems and their funding.
100	McClure	Continues presentation on services provided by counties. Discusses public health issues that need to be addressed. States the retirement system for public employees needs to be looked at.
140	Laura Pryor	Judge, Gilliam County. Gives background on her experience with transportation in her county. Describes the federal highways going through Portland have no way to expand. Suggests there is a need to deal with handling freeway traffic through large cities. States the east side of the state is merely trying to maintain roads. Suggests that there needs to be a look at the whole state transportation problems, not just areas.
256	Sen. Messerle	Asks for funding solutions to some of these traffic problems such as I-5 congestion. Asks how we can move forward on these projects.

273	Pryor	Responds that the old ways do not work. A strategic look at the entire system needs to be taken along with the federal government's participation. Suggests a task force look at the overall large problem of transportation throughout the state.
303	Sen. Carter	Comments that we need to have the will to manage the statewide transportation system.
305	Chair George	Closes informational meeting. Opens public hearing.
<b>SB 13, SB 14, SB 15 PUBLIC HEARING</b>		
350	Chair George	States that SB 13, SB 14, and SB 15 have to do with seismic activity and the discussions will include emergency response efforts by the community and government when needed.
<b>TAPE 23, A</b>		
009	Patrick Balducci	Committee Administrator. Explains SB 13, SB 14, and SB 15.
029	Sen. Peter Courtney	Senate District 17. Testifies in support of SB 13, SB 14, SB 15. Comments that he was asked to serve on the Oregon Safety Seismic Policy Commission (OSSPC). States the bills are at the request of the OSSPC. Introduces the chair of OSSPC, Chris Thompson, Structural Engineer. Describes the findings of OSSPC that say Oregon will be the recipient of an enormously devastating earthquake in the future ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ).
124	Rose Gentry	Vice Chair OSSPC. Testifies on SB 13. Explains emergency preparedness. Describes where the greatest danger lies during an earthquake. Falling objects are the greatest danger during a quake. Describes what kind of training SB 13 requests.
155	Chris Thompson	Chair, OSSPC. Supports SB 13, SB 14, SB 15. Explains that it is the structures built by man that kill people during an earthquake. Comments on priorities in seismic safety provisions for schools and hospitals. Supports SB 15. States that SB 14 and SB 15 recognize the huge amount of work to be done to prepare for major seismic activity ( <b>EXHIBIT C</b> ).
314	Thompson	Says many schools were built before the present codes were enacted to ensure building stability in an earthquake. Describes the need for structurally stable hospitals during earthquakes. OSSPC supports all three bills, SB 13, SB 14, SB 15.
347	Sen. Clarno	Thanks Sen. Courtney for his work on this issue. Reports on the earthquake felt in the capitol building when she was here in a previous session.
406	Sen. Messerle	Thanks Sen. Courtney for the work. Asks about earthquake potential in the different regions of the state and the Coos Bay region particularly.
<b>TAPE 22, B</b>		
012	Thompson	Responds to questions on expected impact of earthquakes in different areas of the state.
020	Sen. Courtney	Comments on the areas and the impact expected.
033	Sen. Carter	Comments on location in Portland near a major earth fault.
038	John Beaulieu	State Geologist, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). Shows charts displaying geological plates and risks of seismic activity in Oregon. High-risk areas are the west coast and the Willamette Valley. East of the Cascade Mountains is low risk ( <b>EXHIBIT D</b> ).
157	Chair George	Asks how the different soil types are affected by seismic activity.
160	Beaulieu	Describes the types of soils that are affected by seismic activity.
165	Chair George	Asks how the "fill" areas of cities are ranked as to stability.
170	Beaulieu	Answers "fill" areas are considered unstable. Relates that

		installing “fills” correctly can help stabilize them. Displays a computerized map of the Portland area that shows where the earthquake losses would be. Describes a major earthquake in the 1700s that affected the Portland area. Describes how scientists put together geologic findings that point to ancient earthquakes.
246	Beaulieu	Estimates dollar losses in a major earthquake in western area. There are many tools available to deal with this issue. Computer generated maps can be produced for different scenarios showing losses. Science can be tapped to pursue safety measures in the event of a devastating earthquake in Oregon. The geology board advises the legislature to begin to prepare for building safety and emergency response on a timeline basis.
320	Beaulieu	Gives timeline on earthquakes in Oregon. Suggests about 15 to 20 percent chance in the next 50 years of a major earthquake.
340	Sen. Messerle	Asks about stumps uncovered along the coast indicating ancient earthquakes causing the coastline to drop.
352	Beaulieu	Describes numerous stump fields buried along the coast that indicate earthquakes from Canada to California remarkably recur every 300 years.
376	Chair George	Mentions his personal experience viewing the geologic results of the Alaskan earthquake.
380	Beaulieu	Responds that Oregon is in an abnormally low period of seismic activity. Worldwide the activity seems usual.
399	Chair George	Asks the committee to look into the risks of Oregon earthquakes and what economic realities can be addressed.
416	Sen. Mae Yih	Senate District 19. Discusses bridge loss at Harrisburg due to a vehicular accident and compares loss of a bridge to loss by seismic activity.
<b>TAPE 23, B</b>		
023	Sen. Yih	Describes inconvenience and economic activity loss due to recent destruction of a bridge in her district . Relates this loss to the need for emergency response due to an earthquake.
091	Charles Cook	Resident of Senate District 19. Describes the recent loss of a bridge near his residence through a vehicle accident and how emergency response is needed. Emphasizes that some government agency has to come forward and get emergency remedies in place for citizens to carry on.
153	Bruce Cleaton	City Administrator, City of Harrisburg. Relates the sudden emergency resulting from the loss of the bridge and how the situation could be similar if an earthquake destroyed bridges. Describes how residents could not get to work and school. There are about 10,000 vehicles that use that bridge daily. Businesses in Harrisburg have already noticed the drop in patronage. Fire and medical emergency vehicles cannot get across. Also farm vehicles are caused to make lengthy detours using extra fuel and taking extra time.
284	Cook	Emphasizes that there was no emergency response to deal with this loss. It took several days before there was any response at all from government.
296	Sen. Carter	Suggests that ODOT and the Department of Economic Development need to look at the loss and the expanding impact on lives and businesses.
314	Sen. Messerle	Comments on future emergencies of floods and slides that need alternative routes of transportation to be made available.

400 Chair George Comments on emergency preparedness needed in natural disasters and community emergencies. Closes public hearing. Opens work session on introduction of committee bills.

**WORK SESSION**

**INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE BILLS**

432 Balducci Summarizes legislative concepts (LCs 69, 163, 244, 841, 1629, 1630, 1790, 1996, 1997, 2556, 2586, 2918, 2991) to be introduced as committee bills.

439 Sen. Carter **MOTION: Moves LC's: 69, 163, 244, 841, 1629, 1630, 1790, 1996, 1997, 2556, 2586, 2918, 2991 BE INTRODUCED as committee bills.**

440 Chair George **EXCUSED: 2 – Clarno, Metsger**  
**Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.**

**TAPE 24, A**

002 Chair George Closes work session. Opens public hearing on SB 13, 14, 15.

**SB 13, SB 14, SB 15 PUBLIC HEARING**

034 William Elliott Elliott Consultants, LLC. Civil Engineer. Supports SB 13, SB 14, SB 15. Describes upgrading of facilities through DOGAMI **(EXHIBIT E)**.

108 Sen. Messerle Asks about destruction in the subduction area.

109 Elliott On average, a major earthquake along the subduction zone occurs every 350 years.

118 Sen. George Discusses possible destruction of the infrastructure.

127 Elliott Describes loss of transportation systems, loss of water systems. Comments it will be quite serious.

136 James Bela Oregon Earthquake Awareness. Describes earthquake destruction in Oregon and the northwest. Shows pictures of recent earthquakes in the west. Shows picture of Molalla High School entrance after the earthquake of 1992. Emphasizes the danger of brick veneer on schools during earthquakes **(EXHIBIT F)**.

290 Bela Continues presentation on affects of earthquakes and possible actions to alleviate loss of life.

**TAPE 25, A**

020 Bela Summarizes the need for earthquake preparedness.

040 Staff Submits **EXHIBIT G** and **EXHIBIT H**.

043 Chair Adjourns meeting at 5:25 pm.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Nancy Masee,  
Committee Assistant

Patrick Balducci,  
Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A – Written testimony, Bill Penhollow, 26 pp**

**B – Written testimony, Sen. Peter Courtney, 7 pp**

**C – Written testimony, Christopher Thompson, 4 pp**

**D – Written testimony, John Beaulieu, 30 pp**

**E – Written testimony, William Elliott, 1 p**  
**F – Written testimony, James Bela, 13 pp**  
**G – Written testimony, Joseph Schweinhart, 1 p**  
**H – Written testimony, Thomas Miller, 1 p**