The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) - praised accomplishments of the 77th Legislative Assembly that move Oregon toward greater resilience to earthquake and tsunami impacts.

"Legislators heard new findings about the risks to Oregon's economy, and they responded with steps that create new momentum for seismic resilience policy," said commission chairman Kent Yu, Ph.D.

OSSPAC released the Oregon Resilience Plan earlier this year, after the 18-member commission met for nearly two years to develop a comprehensive plan to limit the impact of a major earthquake and tsunami on Oregon's economy. Legislators responded by passing Senate Bill 33, which establishes a task force on Resilience Plan implementation.

"The new legislation allows the commission to develop policy and regulations to move the state forward in preparing for a major earthquake," said Yu.

Oregon is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a 600 mile fault line stretching from California to British Columbia. Current scientific findings indicate that a major 9.0 or higher earthquake similar to the one that struck Japan in 2011 could strike Oregon at any time.

OSSPAC produced the Oregon Resilience Plan, requested by House Resolution 3 in 2011, with assistance from 169 volunteer professionals representing public agencies, universities, and the private sector.

Yu said it was great to see the exceptional interest in earthquake and tsunami safety that lawmakers showed this year.

"We have a long way to go to build a more resilient Oregon," Yu said. "But the new laws and public investments this year get us off to a strong and encouraging start."

Related legislation passed during this session includes Senate Bill 813, which moves the state's award-winning Seismic Rehabilitation Grants Program from Oregon Emergency Management to the Oregon Business Development Department, and Senate Bill 5506, which authorizes $30 million in new General Obligation bond funding for seismic retrofits to public schools and emergency response facilities and designates funds for initial planning and design of a State Capitol seismic retrofit.

**Contact Info:**
Kent Yu, Chair, Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission, 503-419-4255
Jay Wilson, Vice-Chair, Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission, 503-723-4848
Kim Lippert, Public Information Officer, Oregon Emergency Management, 503-580-6874