June 25, 2019

The Honorable Peter Courtney  The Honorable Tina Kotek
President of the Senate  Speaker of the House
S-201 State Capitol  H-269 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301  Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 3309

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

Today, I am signing House Bill 3309, which repeals the statutory authority of the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to prohibit construction within a tsunami inundation zone.

For years, Oregon has aimed to adopt policies that facilitate continued economic vitality within our coastal communities, while keeping those communities safe. In 1995, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 379, which prohibited construction of certain essential facilities within tsunami inundation zones, with exceptions provided by DOGAMI. In the ensuing decades, however, Senate Bill 379's bright-line restriction has become problematic, as it has created barriers to economic development while separating communities from the services that they need.

House Bill 3309 restores much-needed flexibility, while ensuring that our coastal communities remain safe. By repealing the moratorium against construction of essential services within inundation zones, the bill could provide local communities with an alternative path to ensure public safety. Over the coming year, the state will assess what public safety and resiliency standards, including the new ASCE 7-16 standards, need to be in place to protect coastal communities from a major tsunami event. If adopted, the ASCE 7-16 standards would provide more flexibility to the coast to address resiliency and put Oregon in alignment with West Coast – including Alaska and Hawaii.

I want to thank the Tsunami Workgroup for spearheading the discussion around this regulatory issue and to the legislature for facilitating this outcome. Public safety and resiliency is a top priority for our state, and as Governor I strongly advocate for all of Oregon's communities to be prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Governor Kate Brown

KB:smg