

February 21, 2007

Oregon Territorial Sea Task Force
Professor Chris Goldfinger and
Professor Dawn Wright
Department of Geosciences
104 Wilkinson Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-5506 USA

Dear Chris and Dawn,

The tsunami hazard for Oregon is real and comes from both a nearshore Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and other seismic sources around the Pacific Ocean basin. Understanding the nature of coastal hazards is first step in providing information on public safety to residents, employees and visitors on the Oregon Coast.

For the sake of improving tsunami hazard zone designations along the Oregon Coast, I support the expedited mapping of the nearshore seafloor. The information gathered from this research, along with the estuary mapping and paleo-tsunami studies conducted by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, is critical in defining tsunami inundation zones and creating tsunami evacuation maps for local emergency planning, especially with the increasing population demands on our coast.

Thank you for your continued efforts in conducting the highest level of scientific research to improve Oregon's safety and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Jay Wilson
Earthquake, Tsunami, and Volcano Program Coordinator
Oregon Emergency Management