



OREGON FIRE DISTRICT
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

EDUCATION • COORDINATION • LEGISLATION

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Statement of Support: HB 5034
Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST)
Ways And Means – Public Safety Subcommittee
February 9 – 3:00 pm
Genoa Ingram

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) was formed in 1950 and serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts. They serve without compensation.

The OFDDA is the voice for these fire protection districts, most of which are small rural districts operating on an all-volunteer basis or with minimal paid positions, usually an office administrator and/or a Chief. **This legislative session, the budget of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training is one of the highest priorities of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) and our other fire service partners, including the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA).**

Of particular interest to the OFDDA and the OVFA is the Fire Training and Certification program within the DPSST which provides training and certification of both career and volunteer firefighters. The program insures that when emergencies happen, there are trained emergency services personnel to respond, minimize property loss and provide lifesaving services. The program provides training and certification for over 11,000 fire service professionals. The program also supports the Oregon Department of Forestry when the Governor mobilizes the Oregon National Guard. At the request of the Oregon Department of Forestry, DPSST provides wildland firefighter training to members of the National Guard being mobilized to assist with fire suppression efforts across the state. Fire program employees also participate in and respond as part of the State Fire Marshal's Incident Management Team. The program is funded primarily through the Fire Insurance Premium Tax, a 1.15 percent surcharge on all fire insurance policies written in the State of Oregon. The OFDDA has a long history of fighting to preserve and protect FIPT funding.

The DPSST also plays an intricate role in protecting the public by reviewing the certifications of firefighters and de-certifying any fire service or other public safety personnel who may pose a threat to the public.

Of particular interest to rural fire protection districts is the strong support and partnership for regional training opportunities for Fire District Directors and for Volunteer Firefighters across the state. DPSST has been generous with providing instructors and

funding to bring much needed training opportunities to members and non-members alike. This year, the OVFA Training Conference is scheduled for June 14-16 in Lebanon and our Board is making every effort to insure that all training opportunities are DPSST certified. We could not deliver these training opportunities without the participation and partnership of the DPSST.

On behalf of rural fire protection districts across the State, we urge your support of HB 5034. The Oregon Fire District Directors Association thanks you for the opportunity to place its support of the DPSST on the record for your consideration and we urge you to act favorably on the agency's budget.
