



Senator Paul Gresham



## Vote Yes on SB 464A - remove burdens to recovery

### Background

On September 7, 2020, the Beachie Creek and Lionshead Wildfires swept through the Santiam Canyon causing unprecedented damage throughout the communities. Losses in the Santiam Canyon are significant and include: more than 700 homes, 85 businesses, and city infrastructure, were all damaged or destroyed by the wildfires. Marion and Linn Counties are doing all they can to help support and encourage our canyon residents rebuild thriving communities that will bring residents back, attract new residents, and promote job creation.

### Need for the bill

The September 2020 wildfires hit communities already struggling with the effects of the pandemic. Businesses had been closed and missed high season economic opportunities, jobs had been lost, and children had been attempting to connect to virtual classrooms in regions with poor to non-existent internet services.



Residents and businesses need additional help to rebuild after 2020. Many residents either had no insurance or insurance that lacked coverage for a full rebuild. Paying property tax on wildfire impact property that has been rendered useless for this tax year is an additional burden on residents struggling to recover from the wildfire and the pandemic.

### What SB 464A Does

Counties have the option to use the property tax relief tool in SB 464A. The bill only applies to wildfire impacted counties listed in the Governor's emergency declaration and only applies to the 2020-21 tax year. Under the bill, a governing body of a county may adopt an ordinance to provide property tax relief to damaged or destroyed properties located in the adopted wildfire perimeter. The county also has the ability to set up an application process for a property owner to apply for relief if a property has experienced a disruption of use. The bill would be effective 91 days after sine die and sunset on January 2, 2023.

*Note: SB 464A does not conflict with the property tax proration bill passed previously through this chamber, HB 2341. HB 2341 sets the floor for county property tax relief for 2020 and beyond. SB 464A provides an optional ceiling only for the September 2020 fires. The bills will not conflict with one another and will provide separate tools for counties to use.*