



June 23, 2021

Oregon State Senate  
900 Court Street  
Salem OR 97301

From the desk of Senator Jeff Golden

**RE: Oregon Fire Service Support for Senate Bill 762B**

Senate President Courtney, Leaders Wagner and Girod and Members of the Oregon Senate,

Today we wish to convey our strong support of SB 762B, Oregon's wildfire omnibus bill.

SB 762B represents the first package within Oregon to begin to fight back against the severe threat that wildfire brings to our state. We were there not only in 2020 during the historic fires that ravaged our state, but we have been there year after year as fire has destroyed homes, livelihoods, lands and caused loss of life. Without action, we expect that dramatic loss to continue.

SB 762B brings the necessary and multifaceted approach to mitigating Oregon's wildfire problem. Investment in risk reduction is critical to reduce the frequency and intensity of wildfires in the wildland urban interface. Increased suppression capacity and versatility will give our firefighters the best chance at protecting life, land, and property minimizing the damaging effects of wildfire. SB762B provides the needed advancement for Oregon to gain the tactical advantage over the increasing volatile conditions across our great lands. SB762B includes minimum standards for defensible space, science driven risk-based mapping to inform the establishment of appropriate standards, increased capacity and decreased response times through additional firefighting assets and pre-positioning of resources in the highest risk conditions. Fire defense and protection, fire fighter boots on the ground, pre-positioning, aerial fire defense, and local resources to protect land, structures and lives will increase not only the ability of the fire service to protect our state, but also increase the safety of those who answer the call when danger is present. SB 762B will also bring resources to those areas of the state that are most at risk of destruction and damage from wildfires.

As fire crews are preparing, and in some cases have been deployed, for the 2021 fire season, we know time of the essence and action must occur now.

The fire service has taken a vow to serve and protect our state. This duty is sacred. We will be there when you call on us. Today, we ask that you stand with us and vote YES on SB 762B.

- Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District #9
- Aurora Fire District
- Bend Fire & Rescue
- City of Ashland
- City of Dallas Fire & EMS
- Clackamas Fire District #1
- Colestin Rural Fire Protection District
- Corvallis Fire District
- Deschutes County Rural Fire Protection District #2
- Douglas County Fire District #2
- Elkton Rural Fire Protection District
- Eugene Springfield Fire District
- Glide Rural Fire Protection District
- Harrisburg Fire & Rescue
- Huntington Fire Department
- Jackson County Fire District #3
- Jackson County Fire District #4
- Jacksonville Fire
- Lorane Rural Fire Protection District
- Marion County Fire District #1
- Nehalem Bay Fire & Rescue
- Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District
- Newport Fire Department
- North Bay Fire District
- Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
- Pilot Rock Fire Protection District
- Portland Fire & Rescue
- Roackaway Beach Fire & Rescue
- Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association
- Roseburg Fire Department
- Sisters Camp Sherman Fire District
- Sutherlin Fire Department
- Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
- Umatilla County Fire District #1
- Western Fire Chiefs Association
- Winston Dillard Fire District