



March 16, 2021

To: House Committee on Natural Resources
Re: Support for HB 2572

Chair Witt and members of the Committee on Natural Resources,

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners would like to express its support for HB 2572. As you can imagine, and despite what is written in ORS 477.064, fire does not respect property lines. In planning for and implementing prescribed fire to restore forests and reduce wildfire risk, stopping at a property line is not going to produce the best results, or be the most feasible and efficient way to accomplish the task. HB 2572 solves this problem by enabling neighbors who want to work together using prescribed fire across property lines to do so. In Deschutes County, federal, state and local partners are currently working with private landowners working to reduce wildfire risk to their properties and the entire community through the use of fuels reduction including prescribed fire. This bill would reduce a current legal barrier and better enable those partners to work together to accomplish those goals.

In addition, this bill requires the Oregon Department of Forestry to implement a Certified Burn Manager Program that would provide clear standards, requirements and procedures for landowners to meet while possibly reducing some of the risk and liability a burner takes on when conducting a burn. There are many barriers to accomplishing prescribed fire and this bill addresses two of them, which will hopefully result in more prescribed fire being accomplished where it is currently not occurring.

We appreciate your consideration of this bill and urge you to pass it out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Tony DeBone
Chair

Phil Chang
Vice Chair

Patti Adair
Commissioner

CC: Senators Lynn Findley, Tim Knopp, and Dennis Linthicum
Representatives Daniel Bonham, Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf and Jack Zika