

When I was younger, I worked 3 years fighting wildfires. Most of the fires were on the West side of the state, the first time I worked an Eastside fire I received an education on how fire behaves in different types of forests. That is why I am concerned about the idea of having one set of defensible space standards for the whole state.

As we approach wildfire mitigation, we need to look at the process that was used to achieve Oregon's landmark land use plan.

Every county had a committee that involved local people in drawing the boundaries of the conservation zones. The state leadership understood that to get public buy in they needed to get as many people involved as possible.

As written this bill only has people in Salem doing the rule making. Without local involvement there will be a lot of resentment toward the process and lessen the possibility of the rules being followed. Just as the forests in the state vary from region to region, the defensible spaces required in the different areas should also vary.

Please amend the bill to clearly state that the standards will be regionalized and locals will be involved in the process.