



Lake County Resources Initiative

*A Healthy Economy and Environment based on Sustainable Natural Resources,
ensuring Quality of Life for Present and Future Generations*

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Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Heard, and members of the Committee of Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery,

My name is Nick Johnson, Executive Director of Lake County Resources Initiative, a non-profit organization in Lake County, Oregon focusing on sustainable forestry and renewable energy development. I am writing this letter today to testify in support of Senate Bill 762.

Senate Bill 762 will provide much needed benefit and protections to communities across the state of Oregon, especially rural communities like the one I serve. Community members in our area are vulnerable to the impacts and dangers of catastrophic wildfire, wildfire smoke, and climate change.

Senate Bill 762 sets a strong framework for proactive and comprehensive action that will increase forest resilience, reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and prepare our community and community members for natural disasters.

Lake County experienced the impacts and threats to our communities from wildfire in 2020. The town of Paisley was evacuated in response to the Brattain Fire which fortunately did not permanently displace any community members. However, this cannot be the expected outcome in future events and we consider ourselves lucky in this situation.

Climate change combined with overgrown forests increasingly threatens the livelihood and safety of our residents. The State of Oregon and Lake County urgently need to address and plan for this issue as outlined in SB 762.

Thank you for your consideration and opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB 762.

Respectfully,

Nick Johnson
Executive Director, LCRI