

Dear Chair Golden, and Members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Response,

I am writing as the Chair Emeritus of The Nature Conservancy's Oregon Board of Trustees and as a former member of the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. The comprehensive legislation within SB 762 would take urgent, proactive steps to support healthy, resilient ecosystems and livable communities for generations to come. The solutions offered by this bill have been discussed extensively in Oregon, including by experts from several fields who came before the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. Oregon needs to take urgent action to mitigate and prepare for wildfires. By relying on science-based best practices, the legislature has the opportunity now to make our communities and landscapes more resilient. Thank you for your leadership and swift action to enact SB 762 this session.

Charles Wilhoite