

Date: April 20, 2021
To: House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery
Re: Support for SB 405A
From: Mallorie Roberts, Legislative Affairs Manager

Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Marsh, Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), representing Oregon's 36 county governments, and particularly on behalf of the counties impacted by the 2020 wildfires, I offer the following comments in strong support of Senate Bill 405A.

Since last fall, fire impacted counties have been working hard to expedite processes and find flexibility within existing statute in order to get people back into their homes as swiftly as possible. The counties doing this work quickly identified that the statutory requirement in ORS 215.130(5) to restore or replace a nonconforming uses within one year is unworkable for many people who lost homes during the devastating wildfires. Counties, as well as this committee, heard about homeowners making expedited and potentially problematic decisions around rebuilding based on the timeline set forth in ORS. 215.130(5). As such, a legislative fix to provide relief to property owners with nonconforming uses effected by the wildfires should be at top-priority legislative issue for the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery.

AOC greatly appreciates the leadership from Senators Prozanski and Girod in addressing this issue through Senate Bill 405A and urges the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery to move the bill to the House floor with a do-pass recommendation as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of SB 405A.