

Please find 73 letters of support for SB 863.

These emails were delivered to the Oak Creek Valley Safety Action Group's email, evacsupport@ocvsag.org. I collated all of the letters myself and cleansed the emails of privacy concerns, email addresses, addresses, and last names. – John Taylor OCVSAG chair

Support SB 863

evac support

Michael D.

4:00 PM (2
hours ago)

Michael D.

Emergency evacuation route - SB 863

evac support

Dan M.

2:42 PM (4
hours ago)

I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes. Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas. I live in Ridgewood neighborhood, a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863.

Daniel M.

support SB 863

evac support

Erin H.

1:20 PM (5
hours ago)

I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost-sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.

I live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863.

SB 863 will help save lives.

SB 863 is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state.

Erin H.

support SB 863

evac support

H., Christine

12:37 PM (6
hours ago)

Christine H.

Dear Sara Gelser,

As a long-time recreational user of the Fitton Green Natural Area and soon to be resident of the Oak Creek community, I support SB 863.

With the rise of wildfires in other surrounding areas, we are very much at risk here with only 2 ways out of the Oak Creek neighborhood. One is an evacuation route, partial graveled, through Fitton Green; and the other is to exit on the main road out to 53rd avenue. The oak creek neighborhood serves approximately 1000 residents along with people recreating in the area, which on a descend weekend would be around 400 recreationists. I believe, given what we have seen this last year, that only 2 ways out of this neighborhood (one being an unmaintained evac route) is not enough to safely evacuate everyone including recreational users should a fire occur.

Please support SB 863 so that our Rural Fire Protection District may spend money for additional evacuation routes out of the Oak Creek Valley Community should a wildfire occur.

Thank you,

Christine H.

Asking for your support SB 863

evac support

wayne K.

11:39 AM (7
hours ago)

Dear Senator Gelser:

We are writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes. Thank you for facilitating a Senate vote on this important legislation. We live in the Ridgewood neighborhood off of Oak Creek Road. With only one exit from the neighborhood, we are concerned with lack of safe egress should there be a fire in the area. Passage of SB 863 offers the potential for another safe exit and could save lives if people become stranded. Other neighborhoods in rural limited access areas throughout Benton County and Oregon may also become safer as a result of this legislation.

Wayne and Carolyn K.

We Support SB 863

evac support

Marcia C.

11:47 AM (7
hours ago)

Dear Senator Gelser,

We are writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.

We live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863.

SB 863 will help save lives.

Sincerely,

Dean and Marcia C.

Support SB 863

evac support

Cammie B.

11:46 AM (7
hours ago)

To Whom It May Concern,

Please add my name to the support for SB 863:

Carolyn B.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B.

Support SB 863

evac support

Larry L.

11:09 AM (7
hours ago)

Dear Senator Gelser,

I am writing to support passage of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

As a professional economist, I have often considered when it is necessary and appropriate for government rules and funding to provide a public good such as improved safety. This is such a case. Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness by providing an option for cost sharing to address the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas. There really is no other way to accomplish this goal.

In the Oak Creek Valley, where I live, this is a critical issue as there is currently only one public access route – Oak Creek Drive. The Oak Creek Valley is one of 40 Limited Access Neighborhoods in Benton County. All of these neighborhoods are in need of a risk assessment and some will require evacuation route options.

SB 863 is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state by providing explicit language in the ORS for Rural Fire Protection Districts (RFPDs) to participate in potentially life-saving evacuation route development. Senate

Bill 863 provides an option for Oregon RFPDs to participate in the vitally important task of rural evacuation route development.

Please support this bill. Lives can be saved.

Larry L.

Oak Creek Valley resident

support HB863

evac support

sarah g.

10:33 AM (8
hours ago)

I am in support of HB863. Please pass it.

Sarah G.

SB863

evac support

Clinton, R.

9:59 AM (8
hours ago)

As a resident of the Ridgewood area of Oak Creek (1380 NW Magnolia), I am strongly in favor of anything that contributes to our ability to evacuate in case of wildfire.

Thank you for your support of SB863.

R. Clinton

support for HB 863

evac support

David and Julie O.

9:53 AM (9
hours ago)

We support Senate Bill HB 863 and feel it is crucial to securing a safe evacuation route for those of us living in the Oak Creek Valley.

Regards,
David & Julie O.

Support SB 863

evac support

Mike M.

9:51 AM (9
hours ago)

Hello,

The Oak Creek Valley in Benton County is my home and the office location for my entrepreneurial ventures in the Corvallis area. Currently, there is only ONE public exit from this highly forested area. In the event of a natural disaster, such a forest fire, this single exit could trap our neighbors and my family with nowhere to go. This is a preventable outcome with some advance preparation.

SB 863 will help save lives in our area; therefore, I am writing in support of SB 863 that would allow rural fire protection districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes and share the costs of wildfire preparedness here and throughout the state.

2020 was a scary fire season that had devastating impacts to many Oregonians, threatened many more and required all hands on deck to help. That is a tragic series of events.

Please support SB 863.

Sincerely,

Mike M.

To: [ann.](#)

Subject: Support for SB 863

Dear Ann,

Please add our names in support of SB 863

John F. & Lynn D.

And thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Best
John

SB 683

evac support

SJ R.

9:34 AM (9
hours ago)

We support SB 683. Steve and Jill R.

Oak creek supports SB 863

evac support

Dawn & Mike B.

9:24 AM (9
hours ago)

I love living in my house off Oak Creek and Grandview Drive. As it stands now I am easily trapped here if there is a fire and that is terrifying. I need legislative support to remain safe. SB 863 will help save lives.

I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes. Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.

I live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863.

SB 863 is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state. Thank you for your assistance.

Michael and Dawn B,

Support SB 863

evac support

Diana M.

9:18 AM (9
hours ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser,
re: support SB 863

We live [...] in the Chinook Road District which is part of the Oak Creek Valley area of around 380 households with only one open road in and out. With lots of moisture this winter to build mass and the prospect of another very dry high fire danger summer we do not want to become the next tragedy like Paradise, CA.

We are writing to support SB 863, the legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evaluation routes. Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness by providing an option for cost sharing to address the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas throughout the state.

SB 863 is an important legislative action that will help save lives.

Diana and Jim M.

Support SB 863 - emergency evacuation help

evac support



Yvonne

9:10 AM (9
hours ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser, re:support SB863

- I am writing in **support of SB 863**, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

- Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.

- I live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863.
- SB 863 will help save lives.
- SB 863 is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state.

Additional Background Information: The Oak Creek Valley is an unincorporated rural community of 380 households, northwest of Corvallis. It is located in a large forested basin or Wildland-Urban-Interface (WUI) and has only one public exit - Oak Creek Drive.

The Oak Creek Valley is one of 40 Limited Access Neighborhoods in Benton County. All of these neighborhoods are in need of a risk assessment and some will require evacuation route options. It is clear that similar situations are compounded across the state and Oak Creek Valley is representative of a much larger issue. Currently there is no designated agency or dedicated funding pool for emergency evacuation route planning or development. As the danger of large-scale wildfires increases annually, the need for safe evacuation routes also grows.

Thank you for your attention to this very critical matter,

Yvonne H.

Support SB 863 Please!

evac support

a.s.

9:07 AM (9
hours ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser,

I am writing to ask that you strongly support SB 863, which will enable Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in development of emergency evacuation routes.

I live in the Oak Creek Valley, an area of 380 households in north west Corvallis, Oregon. We currently have a single route of egress in case of a fire, earthquake or other natural disaster.

During the forest fires last fall, our vulnerability was brought home to us as smoke from fires east of us poured into our area. We were just lucky that there were no fires on the MacDonald or Starker forests immediately north and east of our neighborhood,

bordering our property, here in the wildland-urban-interface. Had a fire blocked Oak Creek Drive, our sole route out of this neighborhood, lives could have been lost.

Neighborhood residents are making every effort to explore improved egress but need your help to pass this bill which would enable our Fire District to support completion of emergency access roads.

Passage of this legislation could improve the safety of rural residents throughout the state. Please support it to make the resources available to make these critical infrastructure improvements.

Thank you in advance for your attention, and support.

Sincerely,

Ann S.

Support SB 863

evac support

Kari M.

8:35 AM (10
hours ago)

Hello!

I'd like to add my name (and my fiancée's_) to the general letter of support for Bill 863. We are residents of the Ridgewood Road District off of Oak Creek.

Kari M.
Jed M.

support SB 863

evac support



WOJTEK K.

8:33 AM (10
hours ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelsler,

Please consider my support of legislative amendment SB 863, which would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

The last year wildfires in Oregon made it painfully obvious that the local communities are not prepared for handling such emergencies.

My family and I live in a limited access neighborhood and our survival depends on existence of a viable escape route.

Passing SB 863 legislative action would benefit not only my family but also many rural residents throughout Oregon.

Respectfully,

Wojtek K.,
Terrie K.,
Anka K.,
Krystyna K.

Support SB 863

evac support

8:32 AM (10
hours ago)

Hello!

We are very excited to hear that this bill will give our area an added means of resources that will help in our pursuit of fire preparedness!

We support SB 863!

Jim and Kathy A.

Sent from my iPhone

support SB 863

evac support

Chris, K.

8:19 AM (10
hours ago)

to evacsupport@ocvsag.org

Hello,

Please support SB 863.

Chris K.

support SB 863

evac support



Robert J.

7:55 AM (11
hours ago)

Dear, Senator Sara Gelser, re: support SB 863

- I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.
- Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.
- I live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863.
- SB 863 will help save lives.
- SB 863 is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state.

Respectfully yours,

Robert J.

Very important... Oak Creek Fire Evac needs

evac support

Jayne K.

7:21 AM (11
hours ago)

to me

Hi,

I support SB863 to improve/create evacuation routes for Oregon rural neighborhoods with the help of funds from rural fire departments.

Jayne C.

support SB 863

evac support

Sun, Apr 25, 10:34 PM (20 hours ago)

As an Oak Creek area residents, we are writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

Sincerely,

Jadwiga and Tom G.

SB 863

evac support

Kevin B.

Sun, Apr 25, 10:13 PM
(20 hours ago)

Senator Sara Gelsler,

I'm writing in support of SB 863. I live in an area with one viable escape route in case of fire. If a fire blocks that one route out, everyone in this rural road district will be in grave danger. I support having a voice at the table through road district representatives input in developing viable evacuation routes that can save lives.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kevin B.

Support HB863

evac support

Heather J.

Sun, Apr 25, 9:36 PM
(21 hours ago)

Bradd and heather J.

support SB 863

evac support

Jane S.

Sun, Apr 25, 9:28 PM
(21 hours ago)

to me

Jane S.

John B.

support SB 863

evac support

John W.

Sun, Apr 25, 9:00 PM
(22 hours ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser, re: support SB 863

I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

- Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.
- SB 863 will help save lives.
- SB 863 is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state.

Thank you for your attention and support of this issue.

Sincerely,

John W.

support SB 863

evac support

Pamela Camfield

Sun, Apr 25, 8:00 PM
(23 hours ago)

We are in full support of SB 863.

Pamela C.

Support SB 863

evac support

Barbara S.

Sun, Apr 25, 6:57 PM
(1 day ago)

We strongly support SB 863. Please add our names to the list.

Barbara S.

Kelly G.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Barbara

Support SB 863

evac support

Heidi H.

Sun, Apr 25, 5:53 PM
(1 day ago)

My name is Heidi Hagler and I live [...] in Corvallis. We live in the Oak Creek Valley, in Chinook Road District near Fitton Green Natural Area and our fire services are provided by the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD). We have one public road leading in/out of our road district and one long gravel trail which can be used as an evacuation route. The community has conducted research on appropriate evacuation opportunities based on the population in the Oak Creek Valley and determined that the routes currently available are not sufficient, especially given the nature of the rural-urban interface and the growing danger of wildfire.

Recently the CRFPD was asked to consider participating with community donors and the County, in funding an additional evacuation route for the Valley, through OSU property. OSU had signed an MOU to allow use of the land and the County had agreed to maintain the route and help fund it. The missing piece was CRFPD which was asked to pay 1/3 of the cost, which was \$150,000, out of the district's nearly \$4 million in unallocated funds. The District declined the opportunity on the basis that the state regulations did not explicitly permit districts like CRFPD to participate in evacuation activities. My personal feeling is that this was a reckless and misguided decision that could cost people their lives. Approval of SB 863 will clarify for Districts all over the state that their role in fire safety can include evacuation activities such as funding or helping to fund evacuation routes.

Thank you for your efforts.

In support of SB 863,

Heidi H.

Support SB863

evac support

Sun, Apr 25, 4:56 PM
(1 day ago)

We Jonathan and Delores B. wish to add our support of SB863

Jon & Delores B.

Support SB 863

evac support

Leslie D.

Sun, Apr 25, 4:18 PM
(1 day ago)

Dear Senator Gelser,

I live in the Oak Creek Valley neighborhood of west Corvallis. Our neighborhood of nearly 400 homes has one way in and one way out. We have recently acquired an emergency egress through Fitton Green Natural Area, which is very helpful but somewhat limited: it is located in a non-central area; it serves another community to the west of us and it is completely forested.

SB 863 would open up opportunities for us to continue our work on a multi-agency / organizational effort to complete a 1500' stretch of gravel road through an open pasture located centrally in the valley. A far superior egress in the event of a conflagration. It has the potential to lives not only in our neighborhood but across the state.

I strongly support SB 863. Thank you for your efforts.

Regards,

Leslie D.

support SB863

evac support

William S.

Sun, Apr 25, 4:15 PM
(1 day ago)

William S.

Support for HB 863

evac support

J., Royal

Sun, Apr 25, 4:13 PM
(1 day ago)

Please support HB863. I am a property owner and seasonal resident at [...], Corvallis, OR 97330.

I also own the residence at [...] on the same road.

Having secure avenues of evacuation from these properties is critical in times of fire.

PLEASE SUPPORT HB863.

Royal J.

support SB 863

evac support

alan amoth

Sun, Apr 25, 3:10 PM
(1 day ago)

Dear Oregon senators and representatives.

I am asking for your support for SB 863. We live in forested areas and passing of this bill would enable construction of an emergency egress route that we currently don't have.

Thank you,

Alan Amoth

support SB 863

evac support

Teresa D.

Sun, Apr 25, 3:04 PM
(1 day ago)

I support SB 863

Teresa D.

Support for SB 863

evac support

MaHER H.

Sun, Apr 25, 12:39 PM
(1 day ago)

I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

- Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.
- I live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863.
- SB 863 will help save lives.
- SB 863 is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state.

Maher H.

Support SB 863

evac support

Z, Katharine

Sun, Apr 25, 12:39 PM
(1 day ago)

to evacsupport@ocvsag.org

The Z. family at

[...]

“Oakwood Heights Road District” is very supportive of SB 863.

Kate, Joe and Jonathan Z.

“support SB 863”

evac support

Mary P.

7:16 PM (3
minutes ago)

TO: 81st Oregon Legislative Assembly—2021

RE: Senate Bill 863 Sponsored by Senator Gelser

Subject: SUPPORT SB 863

THE WREN FIREWISE COMMITTEE STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 863.

WE NEED HELP TO ESTABLISH EVACUATION ROUTES FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES!!!!!!

My name is Mary P. and I am the Wren Firewise Committee Chairwoman. The unincorporated rural community of Wren, which is located in Benton County, is approximately 10,000 acres and is home to 400+ residents. We have been a Firewise Community for 5+ years now and our residents are aware that it is not a matter of if a wildfire is going to happen, but when. Our Community, like so many other small rural Oregon communities, is not sufficiently prepared for a wildfire evacuation. Because many of our roads are one way in and out, evacuating residents is a big problem, we really need help obtaining alternate evacuation escape routes. THE WREN FIREWISE COMMITTEE STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB 863.

Mary P.

Wren Firewise Committee Chairwoman

Support For SB 863

evac support

Beverly and Steve H.

9:21 PM (34 minutes ago)

Dear Senator Gelser:

We write to you in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would enable rural fire protection districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes. Our neighborhood is located in the wildland- urban interface with limited ability to reach safety in the event of a wildfire (one way out). This legislative amendment will help save lives and produce benefits far beyond Benton County.

Sincerely,

Stephen H.

Beverly H.

Support for SB 863

evac support

Chris H.

7:46 PM (2
hours ago)

My name is Chris Hagler and I live on Chaparral Drive in Corvallis, in the Oak Creek Valley (Chinook Road District)near the Fitton Green Natural Area and our fire services are provided by the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD). I am concerned about the limited number of evacuation routes from our area, especially with the current wildfire climate. SB 863 would empower our Corvallis Rural Fire District to make critical choices around providing supplemental funding for additional escape routes, potentially saving lives in the event of a fire emergency. The discussion of SB 863 couldn't be more timely given the recent OSU predictions of more severe fire seasons to come.

Regards,

Chris H.

DAY 2 of feedback

Support SB 863: letter to Senator Sara Gelser

evac 2

Susan K.

4:50 PM
(16
minutes
ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser,

We very much support Senate Bill 863, a legislative amendment, and would appreciate your support of it, too!!

We have been members of the Oak Creek Valley community for 42 years.

During all of this time, we have been stressed by the thought of what would happen if everyone in this area tried to evacuate approaching wildfires using **our one public road for access**, Oak Creek Drive.

Last summer, with another horrific year of Oregon wildfires, these concerns caused us many sleepless nights and much concern. Our city accommodated many refugees from the Santiam fires and other fires in the western portion of Oregon. We saw firsthand what can happen when people must evacuate, and have lost their homes and all of their possessions. Many also had lost family members. It was heartbreaking, but Corvallis rallied to help them.

Now yet another summer of wildfires in 2021 has been predicted, and was just announced in the Oregon newspapers. This opportunity SB863 presents could not be more timely, or necessary!

SB 863 would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes, and would directly affect us, our neighborhood, and those living in the surrounding area. There are 60 homes in our Ridgewood Drive neighborhood, and approximately 320 additional households in the area covered by SB 863. All of these people who live in the Oak Creek Valley would greatly benefit from the passing of this long-overdue bill! Not only could it save many lives, but it would provide much reassurance during this time of another predicted summer of wildfires to all of us .

In addition, legislative amendment SB 863 would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes, and help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness not only for us here in Oak Creek Valley...but it can establish a precedent that can affect for all of the rural neighborhoods in our state.

In the name of all the people this bill can help, we urge you to strongly consider and support SB863.

With admiration and respect, and gratitude for your continual fine work representing us,
Susan K. and Howard K.

We are in favor of SB 863!

Howard K.

3:52 PM
(1 hour
ago)

Please add us to the list of supporters of SB 863!

As members of the Oak Creek community since 1979, we have long been concerned about the need for an organized evacuation plan in the event of fire or other emergency in this area.

We are thrilled to see this important legislation being considered, and

Thank you so much,

Susan K. and Howard K.

Support SB 863

evac 2

Judy S.

:22 PM
(2 hours
ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelsler,

We am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness and provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas. I live in a limited access neighborhood that would directly benefit from SB 863. This bill could benefit rural residents throughout the state.

We live in the Oak Creek Valley, an unincorporated rural community of 380 households, northwest of Corvallis. It is located in a large forested basin or Wildland-Urban-Interface (WUI) and has only one public exit – Oak Creek Drive. The Oak Creek Valley is one of 40 Limited Access Neighborhoods in Benton County. All of these neighborhoods are in need of a risk assessment and some will require evacuation route options. It is clear that similar situations are compounded across the state and Oak Creek Valley is representative of a much larger issue. Currently there is no designated agency or

dedicated funding pool for emergency evacuation route planning or development. As the danger of large-scale wildfires increases annually, the need for safe evacuation routes also grows.

While many rural towns and counties are struggling to maintain their operations and infrastructure given the challenges of the pandemic, the opportunity to share costs on fire-related projects and improve emergency response and safety would be a benefit for everyone. Providing explicit language in the ORS for Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in potentially life-saving evacuation route development is greatly needed.

Sincerely,

Ed and Judy S.

support SB 863

evac 2

Pam and Randy C.

2:13 PM
(2 hours ago)

Dear Senator Gelsler,

We are writing to express our strong support for [SB 863](#), the bill that would amend the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 478.260) to allow Rural Fire Protection Districts (RFPD) to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

We live in the Oak Creek Valley, an unincorporated rural community of 380 households, northwest of Corvallis. It is located in a large forested basin or Wildland-Urban-Interface (WUI) and has **only one public exit – Oak Creek Drive**. In an emergency evacuation, this clearly insufficient single public exit would also need to accommodate traffic from the many people who recreate in the Oak Creek Valley at OSU's McDonald Forest and the Fitton Green County Natural Area.

Earlier this year, the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District Board (CRFPD) declined to support a badly needed alternate emergency evacuation route in the Oak Creek Valley, citing the lack of statutory authority to do so. Passing SB 863 would provide the CRFPD with the statutory authority they need to participate in potentially life-saving evacuation route development for the Oak Creek Valley.

But SB 863 would not just directly benefit residents of the Oak Creek Valley; it would benefit rural residents throughout the state.

The Oak Creek Valley is representative of similar situations occurring in Limited Access Neighborhoods across the state. As the danger of large-scale wildfires increases annually, the need for safe evacuation routes also grows. SB 863 provides an option for ALL Oregon RFPDs to participate in rural evacuation route development.

We support SB 863 because it will help save lives, not just in our community, but statewide.

Respectfully,

Pam and Randy C.

Senator Sara Gelser, re: support SB 863

evac 2

Dave K.

1:45 PM
(3 hours
ago)

Dear, Senator Sara Gelser,

I am writing to secure your support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes. As a resident of Oregon, Benton County, Corvallis, a limited access rural community, and a county recreational area, I expect my tax dollars to be used to support the safety and preparedness of all communities. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas. This is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state. As the danger of large-scale wildfires increases annually, the need for safe evacuation routes has become even more apparent. Don't wait until another disaster happens. Proactive preparedness protects lives, and SB863 supports the needed development of emergency evacuation.

Please support your constituents with this important legislation.

Dave K.

Support SB 863

evac 2

Jennifer G.

1:27 PM
(3 hours
ago)

Dear Senator Gelser,

I am writing in support of SB 863. This legislative amendment would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to play a role in the development of emergency evacuation routes. The need for this has become abundantly clear, as exurban neighborhoods that sprang up decades ago prior to the enormous increase in wildfire risk now face a dearth of evacuation options.

Our community has been working hard to prepare for wildfire, forming Firewise Communities when support exists to do so and following many of the prescriptions when that support has gone unfunded. We have worked together to share information about how to reduce risks, and fought to have Benton County recognize and address the risks by designating evacuation routes. We are one of some 40 limited-access neighborhoods in Benton County alone.

We are facing the need to pay for evacuation routes to get our 400 households to safety, and we are finding that there are few options to pay for this. Meanwhile, Rural Fire Protection Districts have funds that can be spent on aspects of fire preparedness that do not match the current reality- for example, building water tanks to deal with single-structure fires, not preserving life in a wildfire event.

This bill can help address a critical public safety need and save lives throughout the rural communities in our state. SB 863 brings the mission of the Rural Fire Protection Districts in line with the new reality of fire danger by allowing funds to be spent on evacuation route planning and creation. As there are no other designated agencies or funding pools to address this critical gap in public safety, I urge you to support SB 863.

Thank you,

Jennifer

Jennifer G.

support SB 863

evac 2

Susan and David S.

1:05 PM
(4 hours
ago)

Thank you very much for spearheading this effort and developing a Statement of Support. Sorry we don't have time to write a separate email - members of our household are at work today.

We wholeheartedly support SB 863. Please add us to the group Statement of Support letter.

Thank you -

Susan and David Shaw

Support SB 863

evac 2

Jim B.

12:44
PM (4
hours
ago)

Dear Senator Gelser,

We are writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes. We live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863. As of now, there is only one public exit, that being Oak Creek Drive. Should a fire of any magnitude break out within close proximity, we have some real problems with egress.

Thank you,
Jim and Terry B.

I urge you to support SB 863

evac 2

Casey and/or Susan H.

11:57
AM (5
hours
ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser,

I live in a limited access neighborhood that would directly benefit from SB 863. There is only one road out of our small valley of 380 households (Oak Creek Valley northwest of Corvallis). So I am writing to urge you to support SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes. The Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District Board declined to support development of our community's badly needed emergency evacuation route earlier this year, citing the lack of statutory authority to do so.

It makes no sense in my mind that the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District, which is tasked with protecting life and property in our valley, cannot help further that goal by helping to ensure that there is an alternative to the single exit we currently have. Fire could easily block that single exit route (there is a power substation right in the middle of the narrowest section of the exit road, making this an even higher risk). In fact it seems obvious to me that all Fire protection districts should not just be authorized but required to help establish fire evacuation routes. Particularly limited access neighborhoods like ours!

Providing explicit language in the ORS for Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in potentially life-saving evacuation route development is therefore greatly needed. Oak Creek Valley is one of 40 Limited Access Neighborhoods in Benton County and of course there are many others in the rest of Oregon. This bill would improve chances of fire survival across all of Oregon – as we saw last summer, large and fast moving fires are becoming more common all over the West due to our changing warming climate.

So I entreat you to please put your legislative skills and resources to work to pass SB 863 and thereby help reduce the potential for lost lives in limited access districts such as ours.

Sincerely

Casey

[Casey H.](#)

support SB 863

evac 2

Sylvan H.

11:56
AM (5

hours
ago)

I support HB 863.

Support SB 863

evac 2

Winnie C.

11:49
AM (5
hours
ago)

Hello,

Our names are Winnie Catbagan and Robert Laciak. We live at [...] We support SB 863, and we would like our names added to the group Statement of Support letter.

Sincerely,

Winnie and Rob

support SB 863

HAROLD H.

11:39
AM (5
hours
ago)

Dear Senator Sara Geiser,

I am writing this note in support of SB 863, to allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to help develop emergency evacuation routes for our community, the McDonald Forest Estates in the Oak Creek Valley.

We have 40 homes that have only one way out, Oak Creek Drive. My wife and I live on [...], immediately adjacent to the southern edge of the OSU research forest, McDonald Forest. Emergency egress routes could be our only escape in fire, earthquake, or other disaster conditions.

Thanks for your consideration of this request.

Harold and Anne H.

support SB 863

evac 2

Ken V-B

11:32
AM (5
hours
ago)

Dear Senator Sara Geilser,

I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

Thank you,

Ken V-B

I support HB863

evac 2

Dan R.

11:26
AM (5

hours
ago)

Please add my name to those supporting the bill.

Thank you,

Support SB 863

evac 2

Nina E-W

11:17
AM (5
hours
ago)

Dear Senator Gelser (Sara):

I write to you today to thank you for your efforts to include a legislative amendment (SB 863) to make it possible for Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes. Wildfire is a growing problem in Oregon, and it makes good sense to empower RFPDs to contribute financially to efforts around the state to improve public safety by supporting the development of additional evacuation routes in areas at high risk of fire. I live in a valley with only one way out; we need an additional evacuation route, and my neighbors and I could benefit directly from this legislation. I hope that you and your fellow State Senators will vote in favor of this legislation. It will save lives.

Sincerely,

Nina E-W

Support for SB 863

evac 2

Peggy C.

11:15
AM (6

hours
ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser

re: support SB 863

I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.

I live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863. SB 863 will help save lives, including mine! The Oak Creek Valley is an unincorporated rural community of 380 households northwest of Corvallis. It is located in a large forested basin or Wildlife-Urban-Interface (WUI) and has only one public exit - Oak Creek Drive.

The Oak Creek Valley is one of 40 Limited Access Neighborhoods in Benton County. All of these neighborhoods are in need of a risk assessment and some will require evacuation route options. It is clear that similar situations are compounded across the state and Oak Creek Valley is representative of a much larger issue. Currently there is no designated agency or dedicated funding pool for emergency evacuation route planning or development. As the danger of large-scale wildfires increases annually, the need for safe evacuation routes also grows.

While many rural towns and counties are struggling to maintain their operations and infrastructure given the challenges of the pandemic, the opportunity to share costs on fire-related projects and improve emergency response and safety would be a benefit for everyone. Providing explicit language in ORS for Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in potentially life-saving evacuation route development is greatly needed.

Senate Bill 863 provides an option for Oregon RFPDs to participate in rural evacuation route development. This could be done independently or cooperatively with other agencies or entities.

Peggy C.

Support SB 863 - emergency evacuation help

evac 2

10:48 AM (6 hours ago)

From: Jennifer N.
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 11:37 PM
To: Ann Eissinger
Subject: Re: Support SB 863 - emergency evacuation help

Hi Ann-

Sorry for the late night email. I'm swamped right now. As you know, I forwarded the email to the road district folks. Will you add my name to the letter of support please? And please add Nicolas O., the co-President as well.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

support SB 863

evac 2

Sharon E.

10:35 AM (6 hours ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser, re:support SB 863.

As residents of Oak Creek Valley in Benton County, we are aware and concerned about the lack of secondary evacuation routes in the event of natural disasters. We are writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes. This bill will help save lives in limited access neighborhoods throughout the state.

Donald and Sharon E.

support SB 863

evac 2

Tom B.

10:09
AM (7
hours
ago)

Dear, Senator Sara Gelser, re: support SB 863

I would like to add my support for Senate Bill 863. Currently, the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District Board is unable to participate in emergency evacuation route development. They lack statutory authority to do so.

SB 863 would amend the Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS 478.260) to explicitly allow Rural Fire Protection Districts (RFPD) to participate in evacuation route projects. This is of great importance since there is currently only one exit out of our neighborhood containing hundreds of residences.

Tom B.

Support SB 863

evac 2

Richard L.

9:59 AM
(7 hours
ago)

I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.

I live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863.

SB 863 will help save lives.

SB 863 is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state.

Thank you.

Elaine D.

Support SB 863

Marissa F.

9:49 AM
(7 hours
ago)

I support SB 863

Thank you,

Marissa F.

Support SB 863

evac 2

Diane H.

Mon, Apr 26,
11:49 PM (17
hours ago)

Hello,

My name is Diane Hammerstad and I support SB 863.

SB 863 is an important legislative action that could benefit rural residents throughout the state.

Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.

I live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863. I live at [...].

SB 863 will likely save lives.

Regards,
Diane H.

SB 863 good for Oregon



john t.

5:32 PM
(0
minutes
ago)

I want to voice my support of SB 863. This is important not only for Oak Creek valley the genesis of this particular discussion but many areas of Oregon. I believe the drought trends will continue to make Oregon citizens living in/near the woods will be at a heightened risk of loss of loss.

In particular, Oak Creek valley could see a need to evacuate ~500 residential vehicles, and 150 recreational vehicles. That's a train of vehicles about 2.5 miles long, longer than the valley. People today have a high risk of being trapped. I personally am the "prepared" type, but

last summers' multiple days of orange/threatening skies was quite the trial. It was difficult to rest as there was no way to know if there was a new fire, let alone whether or not we could get everyone out. This bill definitely gives our community the chance of more hope let alone other communities throughout Oregon.

I hope this bill passes.

John Taylor

support SB 863

evac 2

Don J.

5:32 PM
(2
minutes
ago)

I Donald Johnson ([email address](#)) Support SB 863 as we are in desperate need of an evacuation route with hundreds of housed and only one way out.

Thanks Donald J.

Oak Creek Fire Evac mail and signatures

Inbox

Klaus P.

11:25
AM (6
hours
ago)

to me

John,

I just talked to a very apologetic Maureen. She had misread the Due Date and just sent out the general email this morning. Also had not sent out the note to add our signatures. Can you please add Maureen and my name.

Sorry, always a little hectic; maybe only retired folks should work on this...

Re: support SB 863

evac support

P., Heather

Apr 26, 2021, 4:05
PM (1 day ago)

Dear, Senator Sara Gelsler, re: support SB 863

I am writing in support of SB 863, a legislative amendment that would allow Rural Fire Protection Districts to participate in the development of emergency evacuation routes.

Senate Bill 863 will help spread the cost of wildfire preparedness. SB 863 provides an option for cost sharing while addressing the growing need for emergency fire escape routes in rural areas.

I live in a limited access neighborhood and would directly benefit from SB 863.

During last year's fire season we lived in constant fear that a fire would start over night. With only one road in and out of our neighborhood it is very easy to see how we would not be able to escape if a fire started and we would parish in the fie.

Our neighborhood is Oak Creek Valley, is an unincorporated rural community of 380 households northwest of Corvallis. Our neighbors have worked hard to identify another escape route and we would be able to implement this plan if there was funding. It is clear that similar situations are compounded across the state and Oak Creek Valley is representative of a much larger issue. Currently there is no designated agency or dedicated funding pool for emergency evacuation route planning or development. As the danger of large-scale wildfires increases annually, the need for safe evacuation routes also grows.

Senate Bill 863 provides an option for Oregon RFPDs to participate in rural evacuation route development. This could be done independently or cooperatively with other agencies or entities.

Respectfully,

Heather P.

support SB 863

evac 2

Deb

6:01 PM (12
minutes ago)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser, re: support SB 863,

I have lived in the Chinook Road District, at [...], since 1997. I am writing to request your support of SB 863, the legislative amendment that would aid Rural Fire Protection districts, such as mine, in developing emergency evacuation routes.

In the years that my family has lived in this limited access valley, we have seen an increase in the number of houses, vehicles and population. With climate change and drought our lands are drier and now vulnerable to devastating fire, and to earthquakes. Despite the increasing population, we only have one wooded two lane evacuation route for the area.

My family can be safer with SB 863. It will save lives.

Our road district is already struggling to maintain roads for a growing population, and for the public access to an adjacent open space. Any additional financial assistance would help us obtain a safe emergency evacuation route.

Sincerely,

Debora S.