



May 10, 2021

**To: House Committee on Revenue**

**RE: HB 3160 Support**

Representative Nathanson and Committee Members,

OACD supports HB 3160 to address wildfire prevention and restoration. The scope of work in the bill is critically important and has a direct nexus with property insurance.

OACD represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), which are special districts governed by countywide elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers, as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

The requirement for support for this important work from a premium charge on casualty and property insurance policies is significant to accomplishing the work required to respond to wildfire impacts. The money collected for the Wildfire Preparedness Community Protection Fund will then be distributed to the State Fire Marshall, the State Forestry Department (ODF) and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).

SWCDs can implement some of the prevention and restoration work statewide that would be accomplished with OWEB and ODF support. Areas of work districts provide includes watershed rehabilitation, drinking water protection, slope stabilization, erosion control, improving landscape resiliency and reducing hazardous fuel levels. OACD and the member SWCDs look forward to working with OWEB and ODF to make sure programs identified under HB 3160 are successfully implemented.

We support the -1 amendment that identifies the premium charges on policies: \$10-25 on homeowner policies and \$25-50 on business policies. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

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