



Locally Grown  
and  
GROWING STRONG

**House Committee on Revenue**  
OFB Testimony on HB 3160  
May 10, 2022

Chair Nathanson, members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 3160. By way of background the Oregon Farm Bureau is the state's largest agricultural trade association, representing nearly 7,000 farm and ranch families from across the state. Whether it is through their careers, volunteer efforts, or responsibilities as rural landowners, Oregon's farmers and ranchers frequently interact with fire on the landscape and recognize the need for thoughtful, effective, and regionally tailored solutions to wildfire mitigation, suppression, and preparedness.

Recent fire seasons have shown an increased threat to communities and infrastructure throughout Oregon. The changing fire landscape has proven that these threats are an "all Oregon" problem and deserve an equitable "all Oregon" funding solution. With this in mind, OFB appreciates the desire of the legislature to increase fire fighting resources, preparing for upcoming fire seasons, and reduce hazardous fuel levels, and to find a funding model that incorporates all of Oregon in this shared responsibility.

However, we have concerns about the bill as drafted and in the -2 amendment. Specifically, it is not clear as to whether the \$10 surcharge in the base bill or the \$25/\$50-dollar surcharges for policies under the -2 amendment applies to every individual policy per year or whether that is a single fee per insured individual or entity. Because of the unique nature of life on the farm, Oregon's farmers and ranchers may have multiple insurance policies per field, have multiple work vehicles, buildings, personal vehicles, home insurance, and more.

Moreover, rural landowners are already responsible for paying into our current fire funding model through property assessments. Depending on the intent of HB 3160 and the -2 amendment, the costs of this proposal could substantially stack up for those living in rural Oregon and may again create an unfair disproportionate burden on those living in the WUI. For these reasons, OFB is opposed to 3160 as written and urge the Committee to amend the bill to address these concerns to create a more targeted and equitable funding solution for this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment today. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

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