



May 10, 2021

Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

Testimony in Opposition to HB 3160 from Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Oregon.

IIABO opposes House Bill 3160 and the -2 amendments, specifically section 5 of each. This section mandates the surcharge on each property and casualty insurance policy in Oregon, both commercial and residential.

We do not believe that responsible insurance consumers alone should pay for restoration, protection, and recovery from wildfires. Some insurance policies are required by the State others by banks or contracts. Why should people who do not buy insurance - but are still affected by wildfires - not pay for these programs. If the funds and programs outlined in Sections 2-4 of the bill are important to Oregonians, then they should be funded by all taxpayers via the General Fund.

As insurance agents we speak for our clients, many who are extremely sensitive to price increases on their insurance purchases. As we are normally paid by commissions based on the value of the policy, opposing mandates which increase the price of policies could be against our self-interest. But as I stated, we are here to speak on half the best interest of our clients, and I can safely say they would not welcome being targeted as a cash cow to pay for programs for others.

Additionally, the insurance industry, through the fire premium tax, already pays the lion's share of the funding for the Office of the State Fire Marshal - so we are already paying to help in this effort. Why should our clients now be mandated for an additional amount?

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Roger Beyer  
IIABO, Lobbyist