



Glide Rural Fire Protection District

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Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

February 7, 2022

Subject: Senate Bill 1582

To: Committee Chair Golden, Vice Chair Kennemer, and Committee Members

The purpose of Glide Fire District is to serve people, and protect property and the environment of the North Umpqua. We provide emergency medical and firefighter response to a 25 square mile area along sprawling roadways in rural Oregon. Property taxes are collected to fund the Fire District's daily operations. These funds collected from individual property owners are pooled together to benefit the community as a whole, ensuring well-trained paid and volunteer personnel are able to respond to emergency calls in well-maintained, well-equipped apparatus.

Whether the emergency be a hiker visiting from New York with a broken ankle on the North Umpqua Trail, a student injured on the school playground, a multi-vehicle accident on the highway, or a fully-involved structure fire, our crews don't distinguish between a tax payer, non-tax payer, or visitor. If we have personnel and apparatus available to respond, we will.

The State Legislature should not continue to allow owners of developed properties to avoid funding emergency services benefiting their community. Doing so burdens fire district taxpayers with the cost of providing EMS and Fire emergency services to non-taxpaying residents. If every property owner were given the option of paying taxes to fund elementary or high schools, or to fund roads and highways, many would decline with some justification. It is only when all property owners provide funds through mandatory taxation that these essential services continue to exist for the benefit of all.

Glide Rural Fire Protection District therefore fully supports passage of Senate Bill 1582. We ask for your support of this Bill both in committee and on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

Ted Damewood
Fire Chief