



February 7, 2022

2022 Oregon Legislature
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Subject: SB 1582

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Kennemer, Members of the Committee:

AOC advocates on matters of importance to Oregon's 36 county governments and I'm writing today in opposition to SB 1582

If enacted, SB 1582 would allow a rural fire protection district board to forcibly annex property within seven road miles of a station into the district. No other taxing district is granted such unilateral authority. It's worth noting that the rural fire protection district proposing this bill has a permanent tax rate of \$3.17 per thousand while Douglas County's permanent rate is \$1.11 per thousand. For a home with assessed value of \$150k to \$350k, a property owner would likely experience an increase in their property tax bill of \$500 to \$1000 annually with no vote in the matter. This increased cost could disproportionately hurt rural property owners on fixed incomes.

Under current statute, a rural fire protection district can undertake annexation proceedings by securing support from property owners. Districts are also currently allowed to bill for costs of services delivered to those outside of district boundaries. AOC's position is that existing statutory tools are sufficient to facilitate the formation and growth of rural fire protection districts while honoring local control over budget priorities via public votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyler Janzen
AOC Legislative Affairs Manager, Governance and Revenue

UNITED COUNTIES. UNITED OREGON.

1201 Court St., Suite 300 | Salem, OR 97301-4110 | 503.585.8351 | www.oregoncounties.org