

Submitter: Ed Pratt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1582

Committee Chair Golden, Vice Chair Kennemer and committee members. I am providing written testimony in support of SB 1582.

I am on the Board of Directors of Fire District 2 in Douglas County, I also am a Retired Firefighter with almost 40 year's service in Oregon. I have worked both in paid and volunteer positions. I am familiar with many rural fire departments and cannot stress enough how many departments have this same problem with residents in and out of the district. We respond, put the fire out then discover the house is out of the district so we send a bill and hope. While their next door neighbor pays the tax to support our response. It's not fair to the taxpayers, it's not fair to the responders. Now realize this gets much bigger when we start responding on state Conflagration fires. Many of these homes are not in a Fire district but the state is giving them an impressive Fire response. Again with no contribution to our financial stability. I know this modification to the law does not fix all of this problem but it would be a huge step in the right direction. It could allow Fire district 2 to possibly add a few Firefighters. Making for a safer scene protecting our residents and our workers, also giving us more ability to send more Firefighters on conflagrations.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Ed