Senate Joint Resolution 23

Sponsored by Senator GIROD (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.**

Urges State Forestry Department, Department of the State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of Emergency Management and local rural fire protection districts and fire departments to be as aggressive as possible in preventing, mitigating and suppressing wildfires in this state.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas the 2020s have seen an unprecedented number of wildfires throughout Oregon and the greater western United States; and

Whereas Oregon wildfires have grown more rapidly in this decade than throughout this state's entire history; and

Whereas severe drought, prolonged heat waves and overly dense forests have resulted in more catastrophic fires that have been more difficult to manage than ever before, leading to previously unheard-of destruction and loss of human life in Oregon's rural and urban communities; and

Whereas Oregon wildfires have killed at least 13 people, burned more than 2 million acres and destroyed thousands of homes since 2019; and

Whereas the 2020 Labor Day fires in Santiam Canyon claimed the lives of five Oregonians, leaving survivors devastated and struggling to recover and rebuild in the years since; and

Whereas stalled investigations into the origins of the 2020 Labor Day fires by the United States Forest Service, the State Forestry Department and various county agencies have left survivors baffled, disappointed and disillusioned; and

Whereas survivors of Oregon's historically destructive wildfires deserve answers, accountability and assurances for the future from the state and federal agencies responsible for managing wildfires in this state; and

Whereas evolving strategies for the prevention, mitigation and suppression of wildfires will save countless lives, property and natural resources in Oregon and throughout the western United States; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, urge the State Forestry Department, the Department of the State Fire Marshal and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to work in concert with local rural fire protection districts and fire departments to be as aggressive as possible in preventing, mitigating and suppressing wildfires in this state.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.