

Submitter: Marian Szewc

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB82

I support SB 82 because it protects the general public from financial gouging from the insurance company. Oregon has existed without a wildfire map since man settled here. Insurance companies have been insuring for as long as they could without a "wildfire risk" rating. NOTHING has changed except mismanagement of the forests. (Also people who purposefully set fires -- and they should be the ones to pay... NOT the citizens who are very careful and are the first to arrive to put out a fire). Perhaps the financial burden (if there is any) should be held by the mismanagement-of-forest-authority/decision makers who should pay any difference the insurance companies believe they are owed. We have not had problems like this UNTIL the changes of how the forests are managed were made. The State of Oregon (and Feds) create the impossibility to put out wildfires (damaging roads for access, etc) and wants the forests to burn under the excuse of "it's a natural occurrence" that is good for the forest (rather than letting people use the resources and managing it BETTER than a fire, as we used to do). Now our and the wildlife animals lungs (spotted owl) are filled with unnecessary smoke risking immediate death... and it causes harm to the global warming. We should not have to pay extra for these terrible decisions (such as higher insurance premiums). You want less wildfires, less expense for the taxpayers and insurance payers, then let's make some better changes. Let's go back to managing the forests and put in reasonable rules that benefit everyone. Until then PLEASE pass SB 82.

Furthermore, it should be noted that in Southern Oregon our local and state firemen and our local volunteer fire fighter/citizens are awesome when you actually permit them to do the job of putting the fire out (despite jurisdiction/"permission"). This reduces the "risk" of homes burning down.