



**Statement of Support:  
HB 3484 and HB 3485  
House Committee On Emergency Management,  
General Government, and Veterans  
March 21, 2023**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA), formed in 1950, serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards, who serve without compensation, are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts.

The Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA), formed in 1957, offers an annual training conference for volunteers, both members and non-members, providing hands-on and classroom training as well as networking opportunities. These conferences rotate around the state, helping educate and train Oregon's 8,760 volunteer firefighters who must adhere to the same training requirements as paid firefighters. Both associations are in support of HB 3484 and 3485.

**HB 3484** Establishment of the State Fire Marshal Firefighting Costs Fund to pay for firefighting costs and reimbursement to firefighting organizations is long overdue. By financing the fund using the formula outlined in Section 5 of the bill, fire agencies who engage in wildfire suppression are assured that they will be reimbursed in a timely manner for their costs to engage their resources in these efforts.

Both the OVFA and the OFDDA anticipated that SB 762 (2021 Regular Session) would require some fine tuning this session in order for the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to meet the demands and directives of that legislation. HB 3484 accomplishes much of that directive by insuring that the OSFM is well funded and positioned to be ready and prepared to address the fire season. And, by requiring that the balance of funds revert back to the General Fund, the legislature provides accountability and stewardship to the taxpayers and their resources.

**HB 3485** The Oregon Fire District Directors Association, in particular was extremely pleased to see the passage of HB 2927 (2021 Regular Session) which returned the Office of State Fire Marshal to a stand-alone agency. It was long overdue. HB 3485 aligns the power of the OSFM with its new status and provides discretionary powers over a number of issues including setting up its headquarters, its regional offices, and standardization of uniforms, vehicles and equipment. The OVFA and the OFDDA applaud this legislation.

On behalf of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association and the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, we thank you for your support of HB 3484 and 3485.