

Submitter: Mark Jones

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB2522

Hello and thank you for your time,

As a retired Firefighter living within a 350 sq mile "At Risk" area, I am in support of HB 2522. This Bill will allow the State Fire Marshal to utilize the formation of a committee to review and revise ORS 478. The population in rural areas has changed dramatically since the original statute was created in 1950. Also, the need for quick response to fire and ems emergencies is determined by the change in building materials (faster burn rates), the dryer and increased fuel loads in the wildland areas, and the medical needs of an aging population. The statewide growth from approximately 1.5 million in 1950 to roughly 4.2 million today does not match the growth rate of the Fire Departments and Districts. In that same time, the population in my county (Josephine County) has more than tripled in population and a large portion of the county is without a Fire District. I want to stress the need to pass this bill and allow the OSFM to revise the ORS. A revision can bring the level of Structural Firefighting in the State up to a level that matches the threats found with population growth and building materials that firefighters face today.

Thank you in advance for your support of HB2522. Let's increased structural fire protection for our communities.