

Committee Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist, and committee members, I am providing written testimony in support of SB 1068.

I would like to express my gratitude to all our legislative members who have participated in working on this bill and have been working to remedy a wrong that has been plaguing Oregon's rural fire districts.

The problem is a type of loophole where property owners are not required to pay the taxes that support our rural fire districts. Rural fire districts need the money and having some neighbors not pay their fair share puts our districts at risk.

This action has resulted in an unfair situation for citizens who believed that we were all paying for services. Our rural fire districts do a tremendous job keeping properties and local wildlands from further disasters. Closing this loophole and insuring all serviced properties pay fairly is the goal of this bill.

It matters not how this was allowed to happen. The quality and quantity of service depends on our proper funding for our local fire districts. This includes fire protection, emergency medical technicians, ambulances, search and rescue, and aiding other local, state, and federal agencies.

This is a bipartisan issue. Please treat it as such and support this bill. Our citizens and first responders are depending on all of us to correct the situation that exists now

I urge you all to support SB 1068.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe R. Preciado-McAlister
Board of Directors Member and Board Secretary
Douglas County Fire District #2