

Submitter: Jeff Golden

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5025

Dear Senator Golden,

I am pleased to provide a response to your inquiry dated April 15th, 2023 in regard to my research on philanthropic interests in Wildfire Risk Reduction and Protection.

Specifically, you asked me if I knew what the level of interest is from the philanthropic community in funding wildfire prevention efforts at scale.

From the research I have been conducting for fund managers, I can say with confidence that significant sections of the philanthropic community have a very strong interest in funding wildfire protection/prevention efforts. I have discussed this topic with individual donors and foundations of all sizes. Throughout my discussions with funders related to wildfire, several themes are emerging:

Philanthropists want to join this effort, not lead it.

They want to make a large investment, for five to seven years and then move on to other issues.

They see their investment as a complement to public funding.

They want their investment to make an early and significant impact, then rely on traditional funding to support the on-going work that will be needed in the future.

They want their investment to spur innovations in our approach to wildfire.

I know that funders want to join the wildfire resiliency effort as long as the State continues to keep it as a priority. The donors I advise have many critical projects in front of them, and I believe (just my opinion) they will not invest in wildfire if public policy makers shift their focus and appropriations away from the issue.

I am happy to follow up on any of the points made in this response.

Sincerely,

Sybil Ackerman- Munson