

Submitter: Joe Hovey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

How dare you play upon people's emotions and propose this bill under the guise of "public safety"! And then, in the same proposal, to require another "bloated governmental authority" to oversee funding! Public Safety is a state responsibility but it is up to the State to spend existing tax dollars efficiently; it not their obligation to ask for even more money.

Also, in reading Representative Paul Evans reasoning for this proposal, I find it interesting that nowhere does he address the Utility Companies to share the burden of "the impacts of catastrophic wildfires". Back in 2021, HB 2165 was passed that basically "authorizes the PUC to allow electric companies to recover costs from retail electricity consumers for prudent infrastructure measures to support transportation electrification if certain criteria are met." And as you know, PGE recently raised their rates a whopping 18% and now plan to add an additional 2% to offset their "wildfire liabilities". Why isn't Paul Evans and the Legislature proposing a change to HB 2165 and have the Utilities share the costs of this situation? Why throw it onto the tax paying citizens who are already stretched thin here in Oregon.

I will agree with his statement " We must figure out a way to meet the challenges of the day and keep faith with our duty to prepare for tomorrow." But how about the Legislature examine how and where they spend their dollars and like the many families here in Oregon live within a budget! I am not alone in thinking there is so much waste at State level and yet, Legislators fail to address it.

In closing, I am surprised that this even is coming up in this session when the focus should be on Measure 110 and its effects on our "public safety", while figure out ways to get people off the streets and into treatment. If so worried about the "wildfires" try going after the Utilities!