



Testimony: HJR 201 and HB 4075
House Committee on Rules
February 13, 2024
Brandon Fowler, OFDDA

I am Brandon Fowler and I serve on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association. I have also served as Klamath County Director of Emergency Management from 2019-2023. In that time I had a front row seat to the devastation caused by wildfires as well as the extraordinary efforts that our Rural Fire Protection Districts go to in serving small communities as well as large amounts of square mileage.

In addition to my service with OFDDA I currently serve on the Board of Directors for Chiloquin Fire and Rescue where I have served in varying capacities for twenty years. I also serve on the Board of Directors for Klamath 911 Emergency Communications District, so you might say that I have been in and around Emergency Services in many different ways, for quite some time.

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association supports the intent behind HB 4075. We appreciate the need to address costly wildfires from suppression and mitigation to clean-up after the fact and is willing to work together with Rep. Evans to that end.

The OFDDA Board of Directors has taken a position of neutrality on both HJR 201 and HB 4075 as we had concerns about the broad application of the term “public safety” and we also felt it was appropriate, if the concept is to move forward, for rural fire protection districts to be at the table to have input into the implementation of the Public Safety Authority.

Those issues are partially addressed in the -1 amendment before you today, which we support, and we look forward to continuing our work with Rep. Evans toward a statewide solution.