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# OREGON Fire Marshals ASSOCIATION

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House Committee on Emergency Management,  
General Government, and Veterans  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Fire Marshal's Association (OFMA) is proud to lend our full support to House Concurrent Resolution 2 (HCR 2), which addresses the critical issue of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in firefighting personal protective equipment. This resolution underscores the urgent need to protect our fire service personnel from the long-term health risks associated with exposure to these toxic chemicals.

We would also like to echo the letters of support from the City of Gresham and the Oregon State Firefighters Council and further urge the committee to consider an important clarification: **that HCR 2 includes all fire service personnel who wear, utilize or service personal protective equipment that may contain PFAS.**

While the dangers of PFAS in firefighting gear are well-documented, it is critical that the resolution extends beyond the traditional line firefighters to encompass fire investigators, deputy fire marshals, EMS personnel, and logistics personnel. These positions face a significantly higher risk of exposure to carcinogenic substances, particularly fire

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investigators who, studies show, suffer from a higher incidence of cancer compared to line firefighters.

We believe that including these personnel under the resolution's scope will ensure a more comprehensive approach to safeguarding the health of all fire service personnel who may be exposed to PFAS. By broadening the resolution's reach, we can better protect the individuals who serve and protect our communities daily and ensure their long-term health and safety.

The Oregon Fire Marshal's Association stands committed to working alongside our state leaders to find solutions and alternatives to PFAS in firefighting gear. We are eager to continue supporting efforts that prioritize the well-being of all fire service personnel across the state.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to the continued advancement of this important resolution.

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Storms

President

Oregon Fire Marshal's Association