



**OREGON FIRE DISTRICT  
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**  
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**Statement of Support: SB 862**  
**Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire**  
**Submitted by: Genoa Ingram**  
**February 4, 2025**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA), formed in 1950, serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards, who serve without compensation, are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts.

The Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA), formed in 1957, offers an annual training conference for volunteers, both members and non-members, providing hands-on and classroom training as well as networking opportunities. These conferences rotate around the state, helping educate and train Oregon's 8,760 volunteer firefighters who must adhere to the same training requirements as paid career firefighters.

SB 862, introduced at the request of the State Fire Marshal, is the culmination of the task force formed by HB 2522, passed by the legislature in 2023, which directed the Fire Marshal to form a task force to review ORS 478, relating to rural fire protection districts, and make recommended statutory changes. The statute had not been reviewed and updated for a number of years.

Both OFDDA and OVFA participated in that endeavor and stand firmly behind SB 862 as an accurate representation of the recommendations brought forward. We also wish to thank Tangent Fire Chief Chris Griffin who, along with myself, represented OFDDA, and Fire Chief Mike Cook of Chiloquin Fire, who represented OVFA. Both served many hours reviewing the statute and making the recommendations you see before you today.

SB 862 brings ORS 478 up to date and clarifies policies and practices as needed. On behalf of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association and the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, we thank you for your support of SB 862.