



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

From: Chief Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association & SDAO Fire Districts

Chief Ben Stange
Polk County Fire District No. 1
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association & SDAO Fire Districts

Date: February 4, 2025

Re: SB863 – Support for Authorizing the State Fire Marshal to Seek Cost Recovery for the Actual Cost of Fire Abatement.

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the committee,

The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the Special Districts of Oregon Fire Section are submitting testimony in support of SB 863. This resolution recognizes the costs associated with the willful, malicious, or negligent origin or subsequent spreading of a fire should be borne by the person responsible for that fire. SB 863 provides the State Fire Marshal the means to seek and secure those funds. This is similar to the cost recovery ability provided to the Oregon Department of Forestry in ORS 477.

Providing the means for the State Fire Marshal to recover actual costs in the cases of willful, malicious, or negligent fires is reasonable, consistent with Oregon Department of Forestry’s authority, and helps protect all Oregonians’ tax-dollars.

We encourage this legislature to pass SB 863.

Respectfully Submitted

Chief Ben Stange
Polk County Fire District No. 1

Chief Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District