

Submitter: Eugenia Wall
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB579

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

I moved from Alaska, after 34 years there, in 2006, after purchasing my 10.01 acres near Umpqua in 2004. I was 55 at the time I moved, I am now 74. I farm my small property, have and do raise Dexter cattle for grass-beef consumption. I also have more than 60 fruit and nut trees and continue to add to the diversity of those fruiting plants. I also own 50% of a Roseburg located small business, currently employing 3 local persons. We have previously employed as many as 7. I vote at EVERY election, pay taxes, contribute politically and generously to a variety of non-profits, primarily environmental in nature.

I have had emergency injury and health situations at least 6 times in 18-plus years to include possible heart attack (partner transported me to ambulance at corner of De Rio and Garden Valley fire station), immobilizing vertigo (ambulance called and responded), pinnacle tibia fracture (first transport by partner, second the same night by ambulance when critical emergency care was required), and most recently while now living alone I called and was transported by ambulance for bi-lateral pneumonia and obstructive pulmonary failure. I am an active healthy woman, living alone with fortunately very wonderful and caring neighbors. I am not especially accident prone but wanted to represent the variety of situations one woman has found herself within. 4 ambulance uses have been required and utilized.

It should also be noted in 2023 we experienced an advanced and significant lightning strike caused fire that put many of our homes at risk. I cannot say enough wonderful comments about the local fire responders and quick decisions made to request additional help with this fire. I knew the strikes had happened but was scheduled to provide a presentation at my home and gardens about pollinators on the Saturday following the strikes on Thursday night. I had gone to Costco near Roseburg on Saturday morning to buy ice in preparation for guests on Saturday. Just after departing Costco one of our employees in Roseburg asked if I needed help with evacuation...which I had not yet learned about! Upon reaching home minutes later, I began evacuating my home and property that had very rapidly received a Level 1 Evacuation notice. I evacuated and remained away for 2 weeks. Friends later helped me evacuate my Dexter cattle. My home and outbuildings were surrounded by water lines and a tank positioned in my driveway. Thank you, thank you, to the many local, state and out of state resources! The fire came right down the mountainside just opposite my property and across the road from my historically

significant prune dryer. I have for many years and will continue to maintain my property for fire safety but fires are not only in summer and lightning caused.

There have been other home fires in our Umpqua Valley with limited resources available to rapidly respond. My property and home insurance premiums climb significantly on an annual basis. I would hope the upgrades to our Umpqua fire station would help ease the financially expensive insurance situation for the many active retired property owners that survive on limited incomes.

I or my visitors have heard at least 5 major vehicle accidents during time outside on my property. Hubbard Creek Road at Briarwood has a cattle guard and Briarwood is a road quite frequented by alcohol consumers. There have been at least 3 LOUD vehicle crashes, fortunately single-vehicle, at that intersection as drivers exit Hubbard Creek Road at high rates of speed. A woman crashed her vehicle just past the Millwood Drive intersection onto a neighbor's property. Another woman fell asleep and crashed off the southeastern end of Hubbard Creek bridge at the edge of my property; she died.

I support Senate Bill 579 and certainly support upgrades to the Umpqua fire station.

Sincerely, Eugenia R Wall