

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3172

The threat of wildfires to homes and communities has been on the rise in recent years in Oregon. Since 2020, my own community on Bald Peak and nearby areas like Cherry Grove have faced the fear and hardship that comes with evacuations and waiting to see what damage has been done, and what we've experienced is nowhere near what many living in central, southern and eastern Oregon have had to deal with. HB 3172 should be strongly supported by everyone concerned about the growing threat of wildfires in Oregon, because its directive to the Dept of the Oregon State Fire Marshal to establish a grant program to retrofit homes of vulnerable communities in high wildfire exposure areas is sorely needed. Providing funds to help homeowners retrofit their homes and other buildings to better withstand fire is much less expensive, and certainly less devastating to the small communities often affected by these fires, than rebuilding after destruction. Efforts like this can also encourage wider adoption of practices like the retrofitting this bill would support. And making homes and buildings, which are often the focus of firefighting efforts, more resistant to fire could also reduce the burden on our often overworked and underfunded firefighter personnel. Please support this bill. Thank you.