



From the Desk of Mayor Tamie Kaufman

March 6, 2025

To: The Oregon Housing Committee on Emergency Management, General Government & Veterans

Dear Honorable Chair Tran & Honorable Vice-Chairs Lewis & Grayber:

## Support for HB 3366 – Rogue Siskiyou Regional Wildfire Training Center

### The Urgent Need for HB 3366

- **Wildfire Crisis in Oregon:** In 2023, 1,956 fires burned nearly 2 million acres, costing the state over \$350 million.
- **Lack of Trained Firefighters:** Oregon had to import wildfire fighters from Australia and New Zealand due to workforce shortages.
- **Unquantifiable Losses:** Lives, property, salmon stocks, and wildlife have been devastated by fires.

### What HB 3366 Will Do

- **Construct the Rogue Siskiyou Regional Wildfire Training Center (RSR) in Curry County.**
- **Oregon's First Wildfire Training Facility:** Capable of graduating up to 1,500 wildfire cadets annually.
- **Nationally Premier Training Site:** Located in rugged terrain ideal for training elite wildfire fighters.
- **Year-Round Firefighter Retention:** Off-season fuel reduction crews will help prevent future wildfires.

### Additional Benefits of RSR

- **Southern Oregon Wildfire Command Center:** Supports rapid response hand crews to stop fires before they spread.
- **Emergency Support Hub:** Provides food, shelter, and resources for both firefighters and wildfire victims.
- **Boosts Fire Insurance Stability:** Helps prevent more insurance carriers from leaving the state.

**Part of a Statewide Strategy**

- **Partnering with SPARTICIS Project:** A southern satellite to Representative Evans' statewide wildfire training initiative.

**A Critical Step Forward**

- **HB 3366 is a proactive, essential measure in Oregon's fight against wildfire.**
- **Protects lives, property, and Oregon's future for generations to come.**
- **I urge you to support HB 3366 and invest in wildfire prevention and response.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TK' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Mayor Tamie Kaufman