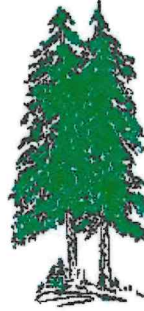


# Coos Forest Protective Association

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

Chair Tran & Vice-Chairs Lewis & Grayber,

I'm writing today to provide my support for HB 3366.

Last year fires burned just short of 2 million acres, costing Oregon over \$350 million dollars in gross costs to fight. These fires destroy our natural resources, threaten our rural communities, and put unhealthy smoke into our metropolitan cities.

HB 3366 will help construct the Rogue Siskiyou Regional Wildfire Training Center (RSR) in Curry County. This will be our state's first facility dedicated to training wildland fighters. At full capacity the RSR will have the capability to annually graduate up to 1,500 wildfire recruits a year. It will be the finest wildfire training school in our nation, constructed in the toughest country Oregon has to offer.

Wildland fire agencies throughout the state are forced to bring folks in from across the country, as there aren't enough people locally to fill the number of vacancies they have on their agency rosters. RSR will have a statewide recruitment program to attract young women and men across our state to this vital and rewarding career.

Last year the national system ran out of incident management teams to staff fires. On many occasions incident management teams were asked to manage multiple fires. Going into 2025 there is even less teams than we had for the 2024 fire season. This facility will provide a training facility for not only the ground level firefighters, but also a facility to train to the highest levels of incident management, as wildland incident management teams regularly manage more than just wildfires. Oregon Incident Management teams have managed hurricanes, the covid response, landslides, floods, ice storms, cyber attacks, and more.

RSR will additionally have the capability of serving as a Southern Oregon wildfire command center and as a base for fire response helicopters. RSR will additionally have the ability to provide critical food service and shelter support for both wildfire fighters and wildfire victims.

Please join me and so many others in support of this critical bill.

Thank you!

Sincerely

Tyler McCarty  
District Manager  
Coos Forest Protective Association