



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

Chair Tran, Vice Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Lewis, and members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

I am writing to express my strong support for Oregon House Bill 3798, which directs the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to collaborate with the State Fire Marshal to develop and deliver specialized training for emergency responders on handling fires involving lithium-ion batteries and electric vehicles (EVs).

The increasing prevalence of EVs and devices powered by lithium-ion batteries presents new and unique challenges for fire and emergency services. These fires can be significantly more intense, difficult to extinguish, and pose heightened risks due to thermal runaway, reignition, and the release of toxic gases.

HB 3798 is a crucial step in ensuring the safety of both our emergency responders and the public. By mandating specialized training, this bill will:

- **Enhance Responder Safety:** Equip firefighters and other emergency personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and effectively manage lithium-ion battery and EV fires.
- **Improve Public Safety:** Minimize the risks associated with these fires, protecting lives and property.
- **Promote Best Practices:** Standardize response protocols and ensure consistent training across the state.
- **Address Evolving Technology:** Acknowledge the rapid advancement of EV technology and the need for ongoing training and adaptation.
- **Proactively address a rising hazard:** Lithium-ion battery fires are becoming more frequent, and proper training is needed to avoid injury and death.

The collaboration between DPSST and the State Fire Marshal, as outlined in the bill, will leverage the expertise of both agencies to develop comprehensive and effective training programs.

I urge you to support Oregon House Bill 3798 and prioritize the safety of our emergency responders and the citizens of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alan Ferschweiler
Legislative Director
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council