



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

Chair Kropf, Vice Chair Chotzen, Vice Chair Wallan, members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3366, which will provide crucial funding and support for the Rogue Siskiyou Regional Training Center in Gold Beach, Oregon. This facility is vital for enhancing the training capabilities of firefighters serving the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, a region of significant importance to our state.

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, with its vast and diverse terrain, presents unique challenges for wildland firefighting. The Rogue Siskiyou Regional Training Center is designed to address these challenges by providing firefighters with access to essential training resources, including:

- **A training pond:** This will allow firefighters to practice critical water-based firefighting techniques.
- **Helipads:** These will facilitate efficient helicopter operations, vital for rapid response and logistical support during wildfires.
- **A future wildland command center:** This will serve as a central hub for coordinating firefighting efforts, improving communication and resource management.
- **The replacement of the Ophir fire station:** This will provide modern facilities for the local responders.

These features are essential for ensuring that our firefighters are adequately prepared to protect our communities and natural resources from the increasing threat of wildfires. The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest encompasses a large and diverse area, and the training center will allow for the local and regional firefighters to train in a more localized and specific environment. This will create a safer and more effective fire response.

The investment in the Rogue Siskiyou Regional Training Center is an investment in the safety of our firefighters and the protection of our communities. By supporting House Bill 3366, the Oregon State Legislature will demonstrate its commitment to ensuring that our firefighters have the



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resources they need to effectively combat wildfires and safeguard our precious natural resources.

It has proven time and time again that when we invest in proactive resource management with fire suppression—by putting out small fires before they grow—we can attempt to keep the small fires small. This project helps with that goal.

I urge you to support House Bill 3366 and help ensure the continued safety and preparedness of our firefighters in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alan Ferschweiler
Legislative Director
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council