

Submitter: Lewis Crownover

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3944

I am writing about the newly created bills HB 3944, SB 678 and SB 83. These bills are meant to amend Senate Bill 762 which made sweeping changes to Oregon's wildfire policy. We hope to put a human face to this terribly damaging bill. As homeowners, we are counting on the equity value of our home growing with each mortgage payment we make to help secure our financial future. This is our home, our investment, our quality of life. Senate Bill 762 has created tremendous stress and financial hardship by placing an unfair burden on homeowners, affecting property values and insurance rates and eligibility.

It is our understanding that these new bills will remove the Hazard Zone Map, but not the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) map. Instead, the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) map is being moved to a different part of state law with a newly proposed definition. This new definition is vague and has no specific requirements even though there are some portions of the code that would require a defined WUI area.

For the reasons listed above, we are urging you to demand the proposed amendments of SB 762 to define and limit the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) to only section 4 (ORS 477.503) of all of these newly proposed bills, HB3944, SB678 and SB83.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Lewis Crownover
Grants Pass