

Submitter: Roy Beyer  
On Behalf Of: Wine Down Ranch LLC  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

Roy M Beyer  
Wine Down Ranch, LLC  
6500 NE McKay Creek Rd  
Prineville, OR 97754

March 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Roy Beyer, and my wife and I own Wine Down Ranch north of Prineville, Oregon in Crook county. The ranch has 2000 acres of either forest or grazing classified acres for State of Oregon( Oregon Department of Forestry) fire patrol assessment. I am testifying in support of a revenue fix to the state fire funding mechanism as the 50%, 50% funding scheme is not equitable to the private landowners in central and eastern Oregon.

For a number of years, the assessment rates were relatively stable with some slight increases and decreases for the local ODF districts budgets. With the passage of SB762, the additional staffing hires and budget transfers to the Salem ODF office has resulted in an annual budget and rate assessment to increase 58% in the last three years. For the FY 2026 budget year, there is no increase in proposed state general fund monies to cover these extra budget dollars. These increases are being passed to the private landowners in central and eastern Oregon to fund these SB762 required expenses. This is not fair and appropriate.

Private forest landowners like myself cannot afford a 58% increase in fire patrol costs. The private forests in central Oregon have almost no monetary stumpage value due to low delivered log prices for ponderosa pine and high log hauling costs because of very few local log processing sawmills in central and eastern Oregon. The benefits that come from keeping these forests green come from carbon sequestration, fish & wildlife habitat, clean air and water, nice to look at and keeping working lands working and not becoming new forest housing sub-divisions.

These are basically public values and benefit all Oregonians. The SB762 extra funding requirements should be funded by all Oregonians and I am in support of the legislature to identify a new way to provide the resources for the ODF districts to protect these mostly public values that the private landowners provide. If they do not, then I predict that the private forest ownership in central Oregon will be reduced to smaller acreages and a lot more homes in the urban, forest interface.

As a budget committee member of the central Oregon district of the ODF and a dues paying member of the Eastern Oregon Forest Protection Association, I will vote no to

the proposed FY 2026 fire protection district budget. The increased fire protection funding is an Oregon problem that has been passed on to the private landowners. An all Oregon funding solution needs to be passed by this legislature to address this Oregon problem.

Thank you,

Roy Beyer