Eastern Oregon Counties Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2025

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EASTERN OREGON COUNTIES ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR REPEAL OF WILDFIRE HAZARD MAP

SALEM, Ore. – Following the February 17 press conference by Oregon House and Senate Republicans addressing the controversial statewide wildfire risk map, the Eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA) is formally requesting that the state of Oregon repeal the wildfire hazard map adopted under SB 762 (2021).

The EOCA joins a growing coalition of rural leaders, property owners, and lawmakers who argue that the wildfire risk map is deeply flawed, disproportionately impacting rural Oregonians by devaluing properties, increasing insurance costs, and imposing excessive land-use restrictions.

"The wildfire hazard map was created with good intentions, but it has caused more harm than good for Eastern Oregon residents," said Crook County Commissioner Seth Crawford, EOCA lead on the Oregon Wildfire Risk Map. "Its inaccuracies and overreach threaten the livelihoods of rural communities. We urge the state to repeal this map and work collaboratively on wildfire policies that truly protect Oregonians without unfairly burdening them."

EOCA stands with House Republican Leader Christine Drazan (R-Canby), Representative Mark Owens (R-Crane), and other state lawmakers advocating for a repeal. The association remains committed to working with state officials to develop a more accurate, science-based approach to wildfire mitigation that balances public safety with property rights.

22 Eastern Oregon Counties Association individual members have already signed on to a letter to be sent to Oregon's Governor, Legislature and multiple State Agencies concerning the Oregon Wildfire Risk Map.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact Seth Crawford at Seth.crawford@crookcountyor.gov (541) 447-6672.