

Submitter: D Torres  
On Behalf Of: -7 Amendment  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB83

Chair & Committee Members,

I had to add to this testimony. Please scrap my other one. I support this bill with reservations and the -7 Amendment.

In Oregon legislature it is difficult to fathom that even with all the opposition expressed on the Wildfire Hazard Map and the home hardening mandates, building code and zoning changes, that Oregon legislators still refuse to listen to their constituents. The will of those who submitted appeals are very plain and direct. We want the Wildfire Map repealed and the home hardening mandates gone, along with the restrictive building codes and zoning changes period.

This bill, even with the -7 Amendment show legislators are NOT listening to the people.

My thoughts on legislators' job in Salem:

Legislators are elected to represent the interests and needs of their constituents. They are expected to listen to the concerns of the people in their districts, attend public meetings, and communicate openly about their positions and decisions. Legislators should be responsive to their constituents by seeking feedback, conducting town hall meetings, and listening to the diverse perspectives within their districts. In doing so, they ensure that their decisions reflect the needs and desires of the public. Listening to feedback, gathering input, and staying attuned to public opinion are crucial aspects of your role in representing the people. This ensures that decisions are not made in isolation but are informed by the real concerns of Oregonians.

I'm sure if people look at the submitted testimony for SB 83 they would be surprised to see the box checked that I am neutral about this bill. Like most things the state obviously likes to keep us in a little box. You don't allow to say support for part and oppose for part. My position is that all of SB 762 and SB 80 needs to be repealed period. But that option is not before us. No one has submitted that clean of a fix.

Knowing what is going on in Salem, there doesn't seem hope that that will happen. SB 83 as originally drafted makes some fixes to the Home Hardening requirements to allow local codes to stay in effect if that were in place in 2021. The fixes are needed in the original bill. I do support that fix. Proposed amendments remove the Home

Hardening fixes and completely change the bill. The new amendments REPEAL the map and remove the mandates for Defensive Space and Home Hardening. There are still a few problems but if an amendment is not passed or SB 678 never moves forward or if HB 3944 to repeal the map is not approved, we are stuck with the map and appeals go forward. Somehow, we have to remove the map and mandates. If it means support of a SB 83 amendment, warts and all, it is better than being stuck with the Hazard Map and mandatory Defensible Space and Home Hardening.

All the games you all play in Salem make it hard to follow and really see the truth. However this goes, WE THE PEOPLE need to NEVER GIVE UP telling all of you legislators what we want and don't want. I don't intend to give up holding all of you responsible for listening and doing what the people want rather than some agenda you want to impose on the people and that's the way this feels. With all of that said, I will remain neutral and hesitantly support parts of this bill and the -7 Amendment with much reservation and will hope for more changes down the road to show that you actually are listening to the people you are affecting by passing such horrible legislation in the first place. This bill directly affects people's lives and homesteads and shame on all of you for wanting to make our lives more expensive and harder to "comply" with the rules that you set upon us. The real issue remains unfixed - public land/forests hardening around communities/fire breaks. All Oregonians breathe the same air when wildfires start. Paying to fight these fires that mainly start there should be everyone that lives and works in Oregon period.

Thank you for your time.