

Submitter: D Torres  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3944

Chair & Committee Members,

I support HB 3944 with exception to adopting any type of International Building Codes or Mandates for Oregonian Homeowners living close to forests.

We have seen from the L.A. fires that imposing mandates, building codes, defensible space guidelines, etc.. on the people had little to 0 impact on the fires that raged through those cities from the forests which were not maintained and water was not available. California has "defensible space" requirements on homes which must be "inspected" and "in compliance" when a home is sold. This did not help these people who have lost everything. Their homes were not the problem, the forests were and the lack of water to fight the fires.

In my opinion, concentration and consideration should be focused on the heavily timbered lands that cause wildfires to get out of control and spread so quickly. Laden with fuels to burn, there are no firebreaks between homeowners and these lands along with no water reservoirs. These issues alone are MAIN issues in fighting fires that start. Roadways throughout these forests that are cut when fighting fires should remain for future use in firefighting, yet, the firefighters remove them when fires are put out. Why? I can name more than one area that these roads were needed more than once and the work was repeated.

I get it that there are homes that could use some "tidying up" and incentives/grants should be issued to help those that need it to get that type of work done. That would be helpful to low-income or elderly homeowners and I support incentives, not mandates. I do NOT believe in placing new building codes, zoning regulations or following some type of International Coding would be helpful to a homeowner when they are not the issue.

Please focus on the issue at hand and let the people alone. Repeal SB 762 and SB 80 period. I support HB 3944 without any "coding" mandates for property owners.