

Rangeland Fire Protection Association Testimony
Joint Ways and Means Committee

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Vice Chairs, and committee members.

Thank you for visiting Central Oregon Friday and listening to the concerns and testimony of our region, and a huge thank you to my neighbors and Tribal friends for hosting us.

I am the Lower Bridge Rangeland Fire Protection Association Fire Manager and Vice Chair of our board. Today I represent the interests of all 28 RFPA's in asking you to Support and **Fund** HB 3349 and HB 3350.

RFPA's protect 17,600,000 acres of Oregon, that includes State, County, Tribal, Federal, and Private lands.

RFPA's are a totally volunteer fire fighting force of over 800 trained firefighters with 400+ support staff and around 900 pieces of equipment spread throughout Central and Eastern Oregon. We are **The First Responders when Wildland Fire Disasters Strike!**

We are volunteers in the truest sense of the word we do not get paid to fight fire and we don't want to get paid to fight fire. Every bit of the 1 million per biennium asked for in the bills will go to fund purchase/transfer of ODF surplus equipment (vehicles, radios) and supplies (hoses, hand tools) for RFPA's or to fund direct suppression expenses like PPE (personal protective equipment like Nomex and fire shelters), Fuel, Tires, Repair and Maintenance.

On a normal year you don't hear much about RFPA's we respond quickly safely and efficiently to fires in and around our associations, we keep fires small saving time and money. The attached chart shows the 8 year average RFPA fire response alongside last years enormous effort and contribution by RFPA's to the devastating wildfire season. Look at the numbers, what we give to the state is staggering! On an average year RFPA's probably save the state 2-5 million dollars in direct fire fighting expenses, last year maybe 5-10 times that amount.

Equipping and Funding RFPA's is Vital to the Safety of Oregon!

Our Motto is Neighbors helping Neighbors! From that mission and responsibility we will never stray.

Please help us help Oregon, and feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need more information.

Respectfully submitted;
Ted W Netter
Lower Bridge RFPA

2024 RFPA Firefighting Contributions



