

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

This bill is a vital and necessary step to repeal the state's flawed wildfire hazard map and restore fairness to Oregonians burdened by its consequences. This legislation tackles the fallout from Senate Bill 762 (2021), which mandated the creation of a statewide wildfire risk map that has since proven to be riddled with inaccuracies and overreach. By scrapping the map and its associated regulations—particularly for properties in high-risk wildland-urban interface zones—HB 3944 lifts the unfair penalties imposed on homeowners and landowners, such as costly building codes and defensible space mandates that ignore on-the-ground realities. The map's reliance on outdated computer modeling fails to account for proactive fire mitigation efforts, devastating property values and driving up insurance costs for over 100,000 rural residents. Supporting HB 3944 means empowering local communities to manage wildfire risks sensibly, preserving access to financial resources for practical fire protection, and redirecting state efforts toward cost-effective solutions that actually safeguard lives and homes. This repeal is a chance to correct a misguided policy and prioritize real, community-driven wildfire resilience over bureaucratic overreach.