

Submitter: Colleen Roberts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3944

Representative Lively and Committee Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment.

I am Jackson County Commissioner Colleen Roberts and am testifying on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County. Although we would have preferred a complete repeal of SB's 762 and 80, we feel that HB 3944 is a small start to rectify the disaster that the wildfire mapping created to landowners in Jackson County, and, no doubt, statewide, as well. Repealing the wildfire map is imperative and should never have had one, much less two attempts by OSU to create under any circumstances. Landowners who attended a Townhall, in White City, on March 8, provided Senator Golden a standing ovation when he proclaimed that the maps would more than likely be repealed; and we agree with that!

Please consider these three points:

1) we request that 'Section 11, Chapter 592, Oregon Laws 2021' be added to the REPEALS section of HB 3944. With the mapping gone, so should any final approvals and needs in relation to LCDC and a wildfire map from Section 11, SB 762 and mentioned in HB 3944, section 5 (g) be repealed, as well.

2) Section 3 (2), the Wildland urban interface is vaguely defined, and needs tightened up: "geographical area in which there is a concentration of dwellings in an urban or suburban setting NEAR Wildland. What defines "near"?—near is subjective and ambiguous.

3) Section 2: Defensible Space: There is still a concern not addressed if this will be a continuing requirement? With inspections? Although we support defensible space, requiring it is not acceptable. These are still the "sticks" that our Board has opposed since SB 762 was introduced. Language in 2 (g) and 2 (4) (a, b) propose reporting and implementing requirements. Is this possibly creating an unfounded mandate on local government to report and implement OSFM requirements?

Thank you for taking public comments and considering the concerns and recommendations from the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. Thank you for supporting the repeal of the wildfire maps that created such a huge concern and outcry of the landowners in this great State of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Colleen Roberts