



To: The House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

From: Chief Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Ben Stange
Polk County Fire District No. 1
EMS and Fire Chapter of SDAO

Date: April 29, 2025

Re: SB 861 – Testimony in Support

Chair Tran, Vice – Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and members of the committee,

We are honored to testify in support of Senate Bill 861 on behalf of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chapter of the Special Districts Association of Oregon.

Adequate and predictable funding is vital to ensure Oregon's fire service can respond effectively to emergencies across the state. Senate Bill 861 strengthens the State Fire Marshal Mobilization Fund, ensures transparency through biennial reporting, and supports emergency mobilization and pre-positioning activities critical to protecting lives, property, and natural resources.

The clear structure and consistent funding envisioned by SB 861 will enhance our readiness and resilience, especially during Oregon's increasingly complex and extended fire seasons. We appreciate the State Fire Marshal's leadership in advancing this important legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 861.