

Submitted to the House Committee on Revenue Support for House Bill 3940 with the -A7 Amendment April 30, 2025

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill 3940, specifically in support of the -A7 amendment on behalf of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA).

OSWA proudly represents Oregon's family forestland owners and is committed to advocating for the long-term health, resilience, and sustainability of Oregon's small, privately managed forestlands.

In that spirit, OSWA actively participated in the Wildfire 35 workgroup and continues to collaborate with a broad coalition of stakeholders to advance a balanced, equitable, and sustainable approach to statewide wildfire funding.

At the initial public hearing on HB 3940 in the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, OSWA raised several concerns with the policy language contained in the -1 amendment which ultimately was adopted. However, we are grateful for the responsiveness of legislators and stakeholders, who engaged in meaningful dialogue with us since then in more than a half-dozen meetings. Working together, we were able to address several of our concerns, culminating in the development of language included in the -A7 amendment.

The collaborative process behind HB 3940 and the -A7 amendment has been both encouraging and constructive. We view this as a significant step forward in establishing a thoughtful and responsible framework for addressing Oregon's wildfire funding needs.

On behalf of OSWA, I want to express our appreciation to the Wildfire 35 workgroup members for recognizing the important role small forestland owners play in our state and working to ensure the cost of wildfire funding is done as equitably as possible while maintaining excellent fire protection. OSWA is supportive of HB 3940 with the -A7 amendment.

This legislation represents a necessary and balanced approach to protecting our forests, our communities, and the future of our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gordon Culbertson President Oregon Small Woodlands Association