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Oregon Department of Forestry
State Forester, Kate Skinner
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

April 25, 2025

Dear Kate,

On behalf of the Walker Range Forest Protective Association Board of Directors, I am writing to follow up on the concerns we previously submitted regarding the FY2024 budget. At that time, we expressed serious reservations about ongoing cost increases. Unfortunately, we feel those concerns were not adequately addressed.

During our annual spring budget meeting held on April 25, 2025, the Board formally voted to **not approve** the total FY2026 District budget. We want to make it clear that we **fully support** the portion of the budget that covers the adequate level of protection for the district. However, we cannot support the continued upward trend in costs passed down from the Oregon Department of Forestry in Salem.

As stewards of both our forests and our communities, we are committed to providing responsible fire protection services without placing additional financial strain on the hardworking taxpayers we serve. We urge you to reconsider these increases and work with us to find a more sustainable path forward.

Walker Range board has the understanding that SB 3940 if passed would reduce the per/acre costs to the taxpayer by removing the headquarters support from the district budget. This would, however, make the district budget for only an adequate level of protection. The Walker Range Protection Association is in full support of SB 3940.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Keith Little, President
Walker Range Forest Protective Association
CC:

Tracy Wrolson
Kyle Williams
Michael Curran
Board of Forestry