



Locally Grown
and
GROWING STRONG

May 1, 2025
HB 3940A – Wildfire Funding Support

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the committee:

Oregon Farm Bureau supports HB 3940A to address critical wildfire funding. OFB is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing more than 6,500 family farms and ranches, including small woodland owners, that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

We appreciate being included in the Fire 35 workgroup and we are supportive of the -7 amendment. OFB believes public lands should be managed the same regardless of how the land is classified in order to ensure fire, prevention, suppression, and control measures are taken to prevent the spread of fire on those lands and on private lands.

Significant work has gone into this legislation and we would like to thank the legislators who provided their leadership and commitment to addressing this ongoing crisis for Oregon. We see HB 3940 A and the -7 amendment as a balanced approach.

Wildfires are a statewide issue and it requires a shared investment—not just from landowners, but from the state as a whole and for that reason, we support the use of general fund dollars. There must be a sustainable long-term funding solution – not a patchwork of new taxes and fees.

We commend the work done by ODF and OSFM and appreciate their responsiveness and engagement. The recognition in this bill that local dollars stay local is a critical element of fairness and accountability.

Additionally, OFB is hopeful that the landowner assessment framework will ultimately provide relief to our members. It's essential this policy be implemented in a way that is equitable and sustainable.

A concern from our members is federal land management. We see a troubling pattern of “catch and release” when it comes to wildfire response on federally managed lands. These fires must not be treated as just another assignment – they have real consequences for rural communities, private property, and natural resources.

Again, we thank you for your attention to this issue and urge your support of HB 3940A, with adoption of the -7 amendment.

Thank you.

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