

Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of SB 83, which repeals the statewide wildfire hazard map and the heavy-handed mandates that came with it.

From the moment this map was released, it caused confusion, fear, and financial hardship, especially for rural property owners in Eastern Oregon. In theory, the map was meant to support wildfire preparedness. In practice, it punished responsible landowners, raised insurance rates, and imposed state-mandated regulations without meaningful local input or transparency. The consequences were immediate—families were denied homeowner's insurance, small landowners faced unclear permitting processes at the local level, and a map that was supposed to protect our communities in fact harmed it.

Let me be clear: repealing this map does not mean we are ignoring wildfire risk. It means we are committing to a smarter, more locally driven, common-sense approach. SB 83 maintains the tools necessary to support community fire resilience, like the development of defensible space guidelines and voluntary local adoption of building code standards. But it does so without relying on a one-size-fits-all, top-down system that disproportionately impacts rural Oregonians.

This bill is a necessary course correction. It respects local governance, protects property rights, and restores accountability. And most importantly, it clears the path for a better wildfire strategy.

I urge your support for SB 83. Let's put this failed map behind us and get back to doing wildfire policy the right way—with rural Oregon at the table.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Representative Bobby Levy, House District 58