

Oregon House of Representatives Committee on Revenue  
Testimony in support of HB 3940  
June 18, 2025

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

For the record, my name is Daniel Whelan, and I am the Director of Government Affairs for Sustainable Northwest. I am here in support of HB 3940. Sustainable Northwest participated in the Wildfire 35 Funding Workgroup that provided a range of long-term and durable funding solutions for wildfire response and mitigation strategies to protect Oregon's communities and natural resources.

One of the shared principles under which the work group operated was to treat both wildfire mitigation and wildfire suppression as interdependent functions of a cohesive wildfire strategy.

As a member of the Wildfire 35, we will continue to advocate for long term funding for all crucial mitigation programs including readiness, landscape resiliency, small forestland grants, community risk reduction, home hardening, community smoke response plans and youthcorps workforce engagement, but we understand that in this difficult funding environment in the beginning of yet another challenging fire season, the legislature must making hard decisions on what we can and cannot fund in order to move this effort forward.

We recognize and appreciate the ongoing commitment of this committee, the Governor's office, legislative leadership, and individual legislators to an **interdependent wildfire mitigation and suppression strategy**.

**Sustainable Northwest strongly supports using one hundred percent of the interest earned on the state rainy day fund *as well as any additional creative financing solutions* to support critical mitigation programs that complement much needed suppression resources.**

With millions of acres of overstocked forest and a future of climate driven droughts, Oregon's wildland firefighting agencies are staring down years of devastating fires seasons. Simply putting out fires will not be enough. To protect vulnerable Oregon communities, we must continue to invest in mitigation efforts as part of a long-term interdependent wildfire response strategy. Thank you.

Daniel Whelan  
Director of Government Affairs  
Sustainable Northwest