



**Rodney Linz**  
Fire Chief

# BANKS FIRE DISTRICT 13

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February 10, 2026

## Testimony for HB 4105

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

I am writing on behalf of the Banks Fire District in strong support of HB 4105. This good-governance legislation would bring much-needed certainty and predictability to the revenue generated from Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) timber sales – funding that is distributed to more than 200 counties, local taxing districts, and schools across the state.

Established in 1954, Banks Fire District provides fire and rescue services across 136 square miles in northwest Washington County, serving the communities of Banks, Manning, Buxton, and Timber. Our district depends on 65 highly trained volunteers who respond to more than 950 calls each year, including medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, structure fires, and wildland fires.

A significant portion of our operating revenue comes from timber harvested on state forestlands within Washington County. These funds support essential fire apparatus, equipment upgrades, and our vital and highly successful Student Intern Program. Without this revenue, along with the broader economic activity generated by state timber harvests, maintaining our volunteer force would become increasingly difficult, directly undermining our ability to protect the communities we serve.

Unfortunately, unstable and unpredictable harvest levels have become a long-standing challenge. For decades, ODF has projected certain harvest outcomes, only to revise them substantially at the last moment. A recent example is the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), where 2018 projections estimated 247 million board feet, but 2023 modeling reduced that estimate to 165–182.5 million board feet—a shortfall of roughly 30%. These abrupt changes leave stakeholders, including public safety agencies, without the timely data needed for informed planning and responsible budgeting, causing widespread confusion and operational uncertainty.

HB 4105 addresses these problems directly by requiring ODF to provide transparent, accurate, and professionally developed data; publish sustainable harvest levels on a predictable cycle; and “show their work” whenever modeling or harvest projections change. These reforms will stabilize community revenues, improve public trust, and ensure districts like ours can plan responsibly for the future.

In short, HB 4105 strengthens transparency, accountability, and financial stability—protections that rural Oregonians depend on. For Banks Fire District, this legislation is essential to preserving a reliable funding stream and safeguarding the emergency services our communities rely on every day.

Please vote YES on HB 4105.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Linz", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Rodney Linz  
Fire Chief  
Banks Fire District 13