

February 14, 2026

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
RE: SJR 201
Meeting date/time: 2/18/26 8:00am
Public Hearing

Dear Committee,

I write you in support of SJR 201.

SJR 201 will provide badly needed funds for (A) Providing additional funding for public education, kindergarten through twelfth grade and for community colleges; and (B) The funding of wildfire prevention and suppression.

Given the status of our schools – among the bottom with regards to graduation, days/time in schools, test scores, and employers complaining that high school graduates (and Community College students) are coming into the workforce unprepared, passage of this resolution is a meaningful effort to redress this deplorable situation.

And with regards to what we experienced in the recent fires, the five largest fires in Oregon were all since 2002. Over two million acres were burned. Five years ago, Oregon saw the deadliest wildfire season in state history. Eleven lives were lost, more than 4,000 homes burned and tens of thousands of Oregonians evacuated as multiple fires scorched more than a million acres. Funds are needed as the forecast for fire hazard in Oregon looks very bleak for this year and the future.

By splitting the 'kicker', Oregon taxpayers still get a little pleasant surprise every couple of year, and since it's their tax dollars that will help these two specific funding goals, what's not to love!

I urge your support and approval of this resolution.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Hill" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael E. Hill
Alsea, OR