

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	7 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Boone, Jenson, Smith J., Thompson, Cannon
Nays:	Barnhart
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/9, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies description of land in Linn County that may be open burned if steep terrain and species identified by Director of Oregon Department of Agriculture. Applies to open burning occurring on or after the effective date of Act. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Error in description of lands in 2009 legislation
- Measure doesn't affect total number of acres that may be burned

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Field burning disposes of leftover straw and stubble on fields after grass seed harvesting. It is used to control weeds, insects and plant diseases, and helps maintain grass seed purity. The practice began more than 50 years ago, with as much as 250,000 acres being burned in the mid 1980's. In 1991, passage of House Bill 3343 began a phase-down of field burning, with the acreage allowed to be burned reduced from 180,000 to 40,000 acres.

The 2009 Legislative Assembly adopted Senate Bill 528. This legislation applied to open field burning, propane flaming and stack pile burning of grass seed crop residues or cereal grain crop residues in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Linn, Benton, and Lane Counties. The measure established that the maximum total acreage allowed to be open burned in 2009 was 20,000, and thereafter none; the amount allowed to be stack or pile burned from 2009 to 2012 is 1,000 acres and thereafter none; and the amount allowed to be propane flamed from 2009 to 2012 is 500 acres and thereafter none. The measure also established that 15,000 additional acres may be burned on steep terrain or of identified species.