



Office of the State Fire Marshal
A Division of the Oregon State Police
 Written Testimony: Donna Disch-Curtis
 Committee: Joint Tax Credits Committee

Bill Number: HB 2525
 Presented By: Donna Disch-Curtis
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Co-chairs Bailey, Berger and Burdick, members of the committee;

HB 2525 extends the sunset for tax credit for insurers transacting fire insurance. This insurance is required as part of homeowners insurance and mortgages typically require proof of homeowners insurance to protect homes from losses, including fire.

This bill encourages the insurance industry to sell fire insurance and has a trickle down effect on Fire Insurance Premium Tax (FIPT). Of the 78 positions at OSFM, 60% of those are paid by FIPT. ORS 731.820 directs FIPT funds to the Office of State Fire Marshal. FIPT funds the Office of State Fire Marshal fire prevention including fire data collection, emergency response readiness, public education, fire code administration, fire safety plan reviews to public buildings such as hospitals and jails, fire investigations, and fire inspections to schools, nursing homes and institutions housing our most vulnerable citizens, who are often unable to help themselves. It also funds fire officer and firefighter training at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and arson prosecution through Oregon State Police.

The Office of State Fire Marshal fire programs partner statewide with Oregon structural fire organizations to provide inspections, fire cause investigations, fire code development and fire prevention public education statewide; the State Police Arson Unit focuses on reducing arson and arson-related crime as well as identifying and targeting serial, predatory and habitual violent arson offenders through enforcement, apprehension and partnerships; the Fire Training Section of the Department of Public Safety Standards (DPSST) and Training works with the Oregon Fire Instructors Association to provide training and accreditation to Oregon's fire service. Last year DPSST provided training to more than 12,000 firefighters across the state and 80% of those were most likely volunteer firefighters. The majority were trained on a regional basis close to their communities. Reductions to FIPT could put these programs at risk.

Please let me know if you need more information or have questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Disch-Curtis
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 Office of State Fire Marshal