

My name is David Zahn I have lived in the Clear Lake area for 44 years and have spent the last 21 years as a volunteer firefighter with Marion County Fire District and I am currently the Clear Lake Station Captain. I am a Keizer resident.

I have twenty firefighters under my command with two state of the art fire engines and as of May last year we have a full-time 24/7 ambulance assigned to the Clear Lake station. Adding a full time ambulance has decreased response times not only in Clear Lake but within the City of Keizer.

It is my understanding that the addition of our ambulance in Clear Lake has upset Keizer Fire District as they claim we have hurt their revenue and is one of the bases for asking the City of Keizer to take the steps they have to annex the Clear Lake area and hand it to the Keizer Fire District, however since May a Marion County Fire District ambulance has been called into Keizer Fire District over 200 times because their own ambulances were busy on other calls. If this annexation is successful those 200 calls will have to be handled by an ambulance much farther away.

We have worked side by side with Keizer Fire District for years providing both automatic and mutual aides when needed and they have done the same for us. The residents in Clear Lake have been well served. They did not ask for this action. I am extremely confident if they were asked they would not want to change. If there was a problem with our service then the residents most affected should at least have the opportunity to voice their opinion.

If this money grab is successful the number of firefighters within the City of Keizer will decrease and will cause the Keizer Fire District to spread it's current staffing even thinner then it is now. This may cause longer arrival times and possibly eliminate the backup system we now have in place, as both Fire Districts help one another during multiple calls or working incidents.

Some great examples of this came last November when it took Keizer Fire Districts second engine company 33 minutes to arrive after being dispatched three times for a response. Meanwhile the Marion County Fire District engine from the Clear Lake station responded within 3 minutes once requested. Just last month two different fall victims on two different days were left lying on the floor for 18 and 23 minutes until Keizer Fire District arrived because they were busy on other calls. Eliminating firefighters within the City of Keizer simply to take the tax dollars from one taxing district and give it to another is not a safe way to protect our community.

I ask you to please consider the amendment before you as it is critical to the safety of Keizer citizens. If successful, Keizer Fire District and the City would literally lose the safety net that we have provided for decades.