

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Orville Downer
Randy Franke
Ken Morin
Wayne Miller
Bernie Otjen



FOUR CORNERS STATION
MIDDLE GROVE STATION
PRATUM STATION
MACLEAY STATION
BROOKS STATION
CLEAR LAKE STATION
LABISH CENTER STATION
COLLEGE STATION

CHIEF OF DISTRICT

J. Kevin Henson

MEASURE: 13 HB 4090
EXHIBIT: 13 HB 4090
2012 SPECIAL SESSION H AG & NAT RES.
DATE: 2/9/2012 PAGES: 2
SUBMITTED BY: J. Kevin Henson

February 9, 2012

Oregon House of Representatives
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Honorable Brian Clem, Co-Chair
Honorable Sal Esquivel, Co-Chair

I am the Fire Chief for Marion County Fire District #1. I appreciate the time that you have allowed today for this important issue to be heard. Marion County Fire District #1 has faithfully served both the City of Keizer and the Clear Lake area for decades, with origins back to the 1940's. We are opposed to the City of Keizer and Keizer Fire Districts attempted boundary change and understand that the primary purpose is to take away property tax money that currently goes to MCFD#1, in an effort to balance the Keizer Fire District budget.

We do not believe the City of Keizer should be allowed to mislead the voters, particularly since the City of Keizer **does not** provide fire protection or emergency medical services. It is not fair, and it is not right.

This is a complex issue that is a challenge to fully explain in a short statement, but I would like to briefly highlight key areas.

- This fight was not brought upon by us. Two years ago, I approached the Keizer Fire District with multiple models to jointly improve our service delivery to both fire district constituents. Keizer Fire was not interested.
- As you will likely hear today, this issue peaked after we added an additional Paramedic ambulance to the Clear Lake community. That ambulance serves MCFD#1 as well as the City of Keizer. You heard me correct, when we ADDED service to the City of Keizer (at our own expense), the Keizer City Council and Keizer Fire District became upset.
- We have tried repeatedly to compromise and have been consistently rejected every single time. On December 9th, the Keizertimes offered a public compromise in an effort to end this costly debate. Marion County Fire District #1 publicly accepted that offer, but again, the offer was rejected by the Keizer Fire District. I have copies of our offer for your review and consideration.

The Fire Service is better than this. We shouldn't be fighting between agencies. We should be using our precious tax payer money looking for ways to work cooperatively, not fighting legal battles.

Our primary mission is to serve and protect. To do that, we have volunteer and career personnel that respond at a moment's notice. We obviously also have a budget and this unsolicited attempted boundary invasion will threaten our ability to carry out our primary mission. If the Keizer Fire special election is successful, we will lose over \$500,000 per year, and without a doubt this will have a negative impact on our service delivery to our customers. The system is not broke today, and I urge your careful consideration of the proposed amendment.

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration. I am available to answer any questions that you may have.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JKH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Kevin Henson
Fire Chief