



## DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT No. 2

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March 27, 2013

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Josep Pedrola, and I am the Fire Marshal for Douglas County Fire District No.2 in Roseburg, Oregon. I am also a Past President of the Oregon Fire Marshals Association, and current President of the Southern Oregon Fire Code Officials.

On behalf of the citizens of the District and the Southern Oregon Fire Code Officials, I am providing testimony today in opposition to HB3326 and, in particular, Section 3, subsection (4) which states the following:

*(4) Alternative requirements adopted by the director under this section may include, but need not be limited to, requirements regarding the fire apparatus means of approach to a property and the adequacy of a water supply. If an alternative requirement adopted by the director under this section conflicts with any rules of the State Fire Marshal, the alternative requirement shall apply.*

I had ample discussions while attending the Oregon Fire Marshals Conference in February with Fire Code Enforcement Officials representing fire agencies throughout Oregon about this bill. The general consensus about HB 3326 is one of legitimate concern as it will remove if passed the ability for fire service representatives to provide crucial input during the plans review process regarding provisions established by the Oregon Fire Code (OFC) regarding fire apparatus access roads, fire protection water supplies, and the hazards of fire and explosion, and other conditions hazardous to life, the environment and/or property related to the occupancy or use of structures or premises.

I have also discussed the implications of this bill (should it pass) with the Douglas County Building Official. He indicated that he values the ongoing cooperation between our agencies because he's office relies heavily during the plans review process on the input and expertise of fire service representatives regarding the interpretation and applicability of requirements originating within the OFC relating to fire apparatus access, fire protection features, and fire protection systems among others.

It is my professional opinion that if passed, HB 3326 will not only take away the ability of the fire service to provide crucial input during plans review, but will result in buildings built and/or processes authorized without the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized

good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection as authorized by ORS 476.030; therefore, ultimately endangering the public welfare and the safety of emergency responders alike.

On behalf of the citizens of the District and the Southern Oregon Fire Code Officials, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this crucial public safety matter. We strongly urge the defeat of HB 3326 or an amendment that would remove Section 3, subsection (4).

Respectfully,

Josep Pedrola  
Fire Marshal  
Douglas County Fire District No.2  
Southern Oregon Fire Code Officials President