



Oregon Fire Marshals Association

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**Deborah McDermott, Oregon Fire Marshals Association
Testimony on SB 582
Before the Senate Committee on
Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee**

April 4th, 2013

Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Deborah McDermott, Fire Marshal, McMinnville Fire and Current President of the Oregon Fire Marshals Association. On behalf of the Oregon Fire Marshals Association, I am testifying today in opposition to HB 582 and, in particular, proposed amendments we understand are being presented today which state the following:

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 or a provision of the state building code conflicts with any rules of the State Fire Marshal or the regulations of a governmental subdivision described in ORS 476.030 (3), the alternative requirement or state building code provision, as interpreted by a designee of the director or by a building official, shall apply.

Knowledge of fire apparatus approach and adequacy of the water supply rests with the fire service, and should not be at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services. Building officials do not operate fire apparatus, do not understand grade, angles of approach and departure, turning radius, etc.

The fire service has decades of experience and knows the distinct capabilities of the various types of fire apparatus. Likewise, the fire service is best equipped to determine adequacy of the water supply needed to address any fire emergency.

Should SB 582 pass, particularly with the inclusion of the above language, it could put the Fire Chief in a position of having to tell a property owner he can't gain access to protect their property due to a decision of the Building Official.

On behalf of the Oregon fire Marshals Association, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this crucial public safety issue. We strongly urge the defeat of SB 582.

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