



## Office of the State Fire Marshal

### A Division of the Oregon State Police

Written Testimony: Jim Walker/Claire McGrew

Committee: House Revenue

Bill Number: HB 2084

Presented By: Jim Walker

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Chair Barnhart and Members of the Committee,

HB 2084 proposes to increase the Fire Insurance Premium Tax from 1% to 1.15%, which will enable the state's fire programs to maintain the current service level to first responders and the citizens of Oregon. The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Oregon State Police (OSP), and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) partner statewide with the fire service, law enforcement, local communities and businesses to provide a wide variety of critical public safety services.

The state's fire programs provide critical services such as:

- Governor declared emergency preparedness and response
- Fire prevention and education for vulnerable populations
- Inspection and investigation coverage in local communities without a local fire marshal
- Fire certification and training for local fire jurisdictions
- Arson investigation and prosecution

These state programs assist Oregon schools, hospitals, business owners, and the public comply with fire-related laws and codes, keeping people safe where they work, play, and go to school. The OSFM Fire & Life Safety Education Branch develops and implements fire safety education programs, providing lifesaving knowledge and skills to children, families and communities. The OSFM Emergency Response Services Branch coordinates structural firefighting efforts during major emergency operations, and assists federal and state forestry agencies protect homes and communities from wildfire. The OSP Arson Unit provides responsive fire investigation services. That information is provided to insurance companies and prosecutors in an effort to identify, apprehend, and prosecute arsonists creating a deterrent benefit with reduced losses and increased safety. The DPSST Training and Certification Section coordinates and delivers training for more than 15,000 fire service personnel annually, providing Oregon's first responders with the knowledge and skill to keep themselves and their communities safe.

Your endorsement of HB 2084 will allow the state's essential fire programs to continue their critical work protecting our lives, homes, schools and businesses from fire.

Thank you for opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walker

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal

Office of State Fire Marshal