



**OREGON FIRE DISTRICT
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

EDUCATION • COORDINATION • LEGISLATION

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OFDDA Supports HB 2084:
Testimony before the House Revenue Committee
February 12, 2013
Genoa Ingram

HB 2084 is recognized as a top priority for the fire service community for the 2013 legislative session. The bill represents a slight (.15 percent) increase in the tax on fire insurance policies sold in Oregon to fund the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). Because the OSFM receives no General Fund dollars, it relies heavily on the Fire Insurance Premium Tax (FIPT) to fund its programs.

About 66 percent of the OSFM's proposed budget is generated from the FIPT. The statutory purpose of the tax is to pay the expenses of and maintain the Office of State Fire Marshal. In addition to conflagration and other mobilization costs where OSFM deploys local fire departments to assist other parts of the state during major incidents, FIPT pays the costs of:

- Governor-declared conflagrations and emergencies;
- Fire prevention and education for vulnerable populations;
- Inspection and investigation coverage in local communities that do not have local fire marshals;
- Training and certification for fire departments through DPSST;
- Arson investigations through Oregon State Police.

The proposed increase does not represent an increase in programs, but will fund programs and services at the current service levels. HB 2084 also provides for financial stability through inclusion of a built-in increase in the FIPT in the event revenues generated are five percent less than projected.

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association urges your support of HB 2084.