



**OREGON FIRE DISTRICT
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

EDUCATION • COORDINATION • LEGISLATION

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**Testimony before the Senate Revenue Committee
In Support of HB 2084
May 6, 2013
Genoa Ingram**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) was formed in 1950 and serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts. They serve without compensation.

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.

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