

Representative Lively~

Please support House Bill 2818 when it comes up for hearing before the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee on March 12. I am a supporter of the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA), a non-profit statewide organization that provides affordable training for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. As you may know, these volunteers represent the majority of first responders throughout rural and suburban Oregon and often serve their communities at their own expense (in terms of family time, personal purchase of equipment, use of personal vehicles, etc).

HB2818 would assist OVFA by removing the barrier requiring the organization to have \$1 million in income in order to qualify for the tax check-off program. OVFA is a small but determined organization; but without this change, it will never qualify for the tax check-off program.

The tax check-off will not impact Oregon's budget but will afford Oregon taxpayers the opportunity to support volunteer firefighters will allow taxpayers to choose to support their volunteer firefighters by allowing the OVFA to continue to provide benefits and training to its members and their families.

Thank you for scheduling HB 2818 for a hearing; I appreciate your support for our local heroes.

Sincerely,
Laureal Williams