



District 63 Firefighters
21390 Main St Aurora OR 97002
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Tax ID 75082

APPROVED

Chair- Representative John Lively
Vice-Chair- Representative Deborah Boone
Vice-Chair- Representative Sal Esquivel

Representative Paul Evans
Representative John Huffman
Representative Julie Parrish
Representative Carla Piluso

To: Representative John Lively, Chair House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

On behalf of the District 63 Firefighters Corporation, we would like to express our support for House Bill 3189, which grants income tax credit to firefighters who provide volunteer services to rural fire protection districts or fire departments.

The District 63 Firefighters Corporation represents 42 volunteer firefighters and EMT personnel responsible for providing fire protection and emergency medical services to the approximately 6,000 residents of the Aurora Fire District. Located in the Willamette Valley, our 64 square mile service area includes the cities of Aurora and Donald, the North Marion School District, 91 School, the Aurora State Airport, Lenhardt Airpark, Boones Ferry Marina and a 12 mile stretch of Interstate 5. We also serve unincorporated areas in Clackamas and Marion Counties. In 2014, the Aurora Fire District responded to 703 calls for service. The bulk of our coverage is staffed by volunteers that respond at all times of the day and night seven days a week. In rural and underserved communities such as ours, volunteer Firefighters pay a pivotal role in providing for the safety and welfare of our fellow citizens.

In recent years many rural fire districts and departments across Oregon have struggled with volunteer recruitment and retention. Rural Oregon's aging population, rural flight into more urbanized areas, the sporadic hours and often dangerous working conditions experienced by firefighters are all contributing factors to this decline in volunteer participation. We believe that HB 3189 will help not only the Aurora Fire District, but rural fire districts and departments across Oregon with their volunteer recruitment and retention efforts. While by no means a silver bullet, HB 3189 will create an additional incentive to help rural fire districts and departments ensure that we can continue to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to residents throughout rural Oregon.

Matt Yakes
President, District 63 Firefighters

Alisha Kuenzi
Vice- President, District 63 Firefighters

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Treasurer, District 63 Firefighters

Jennifer Smith
Secretary, District 63 Firefighters

Dan Johnson
Sargent at Arms, District 63 Firefighters