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Sen. Hansel

Oregon's special service districts in general and its rural volunteer fire departments in particular are struggling to not only recruit but retain volunteers. If it weren't for current mutual aid agreements between many of these districts some would be virtually non-functional. Dialing 911 and having no one show up is a serious possibility.

This is due in part to the time required to meet State mandated training. Gone are the days when everyone showed up for a fire and put it out. Gone are days when there was a waiting list to join a volunteer fire department. We need to compensate these people with a tax credit for the sacrifice they make.

A young volunteer fire fighter, with a job and family, is finding it difficult, if not impossible, to juggle the time required by work, family, kids and their associated activities, with the increasing demand by the state for more training. The first thing to fall by the way side is their desire to serve community. In real world economics they are being asked to cough up 100's of dollars of time each month, and then go put out fires for nothing.

The enclosed bill was originally introduced by Rep. Boone (district 32) in 2013. Legislative council has already vetted this document. Let's all throw it in the air and see if it fly's!

Sincerely;

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cc. Rep Baretto