



To: House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
From: Representative Jodi Hack
Date: March 12th, 2015

HB 3189- Income Tax Credit to Volunteer Firefighters

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Good afternoon,

Chair Lively, members of the Committee: for the record, my name is Jodi Hack and I am the Representative for House District 19, which includes parts of south Salem, Aumsville and Turner. I am here on behalf of House Bill 3189. This a very simple and straightforward bill. If passed, House Bill 3189 would grant a \$250 income tax credit to volunteer firefighters who have performed 100 hours of volunteer services. That is at least 100 hours where these brave men and women have risked their lives for the safety of others. With no financial incentive these men and women willingly contribute their time, efforts, and sometimes their very lives and they need to be recognized for it. Without volunteer firefighters rural fire districts would be unable to operate. Oftentimes volunteers make up the majority of rural fire departments staff, and without them the department would fall apart and the repercussions would be catastrophic. Oregonians need to show our volunteer firefighters that we are thankful.

Members of the Committee, this bill provides a small tax credit to volunteer firefighters, which in my mind is the very least we can do for these volunteers who put their lives on the line for our safety and well-being without regard for their own. I believe that the Bible says it best by saying “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” and how much more of a sacrifice is it then to lay down one’s life for a stranger. These selfless volunteers deserve to be recognized and rewarded. Offering a tax credit is a small, tangible way that Oregonians can say, “Thank you.”

Chair Lively, members of the Committee: I implore you to support this bill as you keep in mind the valiant efforts and sacrifices of these volunteers who have risked their lives to protect us, our families and our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.