



La Grande Rural Fire Protection District

10200 S. McAlister Rd, Island City, OR 97850

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April 6, 2015

Re: SUPPORT OF HB 3455 AND THE INCLUSION OF FIRE AND EMS ON ALLOCATION BOARD

Dear Sir or Madam;

As a member of the fire service for 27 years, I have seen the expectations of service change in all aspects of the job. At my earliest recollection, when I heard a siren I thought there was a 'fire' and that firefighters were on their way to extinguish it, but today's expectations are completely different and the jobs being performed have changed to meet the demands of the public. We now respond to 75%-80% medical related emergencies and I do not see that trend changing.

My fire district covers 135 square miles in Northeast Oregon and that expands even more when figuring in special rescue operations that we also provide. ATV use is growing in popularity and I support getting our youth away from a television and pursuing more outdoor activity. The ATV recreational area in our county is growing in popularity and so are the potential demands for services. We provide EMS and Rope Rescue services in conjunction with our local Search and Rescue agency to the surrounding mountains and recreational use areas and have found it at times difficult to reach patients in our everyday Fire/EMS trucks. As budgets shrink and demands for services increase, we are always seeking new avenues to of obtaining needed equipment as are many other fire districts.

I support HB 3455 as I can see the benefits of having Fire and EMS representation on the allocation committee. I thank you for your time and efforts on this matter.

Respectfully Submitted

Larry Wooldridge

Fire Chief, La Grande RFPD