



OREGON FIRE DISTRICT  
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION  
EDUCATION • COORDINATION • LEGISLATION

1284 Court Street N.E. • SALEM, OREGON 97301  
1-800-223-9708 • (503) 378-0896 • FAX (503) 364-9919

**House Revenue Committee  
Testimony in Support of HB 3550  
May 14, 2015  
Mark Kreutzer, President  
Oregon Fire District Directors Association**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) was formed in 1950 and serves the elected public officials of over 200 Fire Protection Districts throughout Oregon, all Special Districts formed under ORS Chapter 478. The five-member governing boards are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts. They serve without compensation.

The OFDDA wishes to thank Representatives Hack, Barreto and Boone and the other sponsors for bringing this bill forward for your consideration. It represents a creative approach to growing fire service personnel who protect our rural communities.

HB 3550 would help the fire service in addressing one of the biggest problems facing public safety, both in Oregon and across the county: the attraction and retention of volunteer firefighters. Over the past decade, training and certification for volunteer firefighters has increased substantially, requiring a greater commitment of both time and cost.

HB 3550 is not a mandate to counties. It is enabling legislation that provides discretion to counties to grant exemptions from property taxes imposed on the homes of volunteer firefighters. Counties will respond based on their need and dependence on volunteers. Like HB 2818, the OFDDA believes that HB 3550 represents a small step forward in assisting volunteers.

As has been stated in support of other legislation in support of volunteer firefighters, the need is great. Please join Oregon's Rural Fire Protection Districts in their support of HB 3550.

---