



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry

State Forester's Office
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310-1336
503-945-7200
FAX 503-945-7212
www.oregon.gov/ODF



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Room 347, State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 3006-A – Relating to Oregon-based wildfire suppression equipment

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Forestry appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony, regarding House Bill 3006-A. ODF has no position on the bill.

HB 3006-A requires the department to establish a list of Oregon-based contractors that are qualified to supply the department with wildfire suppression equipment for the 2018 fire season. Currently, equipment contractors are identified and dispatched to wildfires from a variety of dispatch tools including:

- ODF Aviation: Call-When-Needed Agreements
- ODF Aviation: Daily Availability Contracts
- ODF District Mobilization Plans: Identifies local wildfire suppression equipment contractors and landowner resources who make themselves available to support fire suppression efforts.
- US Forest Service – Virtual Incident Procurement: Identifies nationally qualified wildfire suppression equipment available for local and national deployment.

In order to meet the requirements of the bill, the department would identify annually (prior to fire season) the Oregon-based contractors from the four identified dispatch tools above and create one Oregon-based contractor list to be placed on a publicly accessible website.

The department coordinates fire response with federal, state, local government and landowner partners and currently uses the geographically closest firefighting resources when responding to new fires, regardless of which entity has the fire suppression responsibility or contracted firefighting resource available. This "complete and coordinated" method has worked very well in keeping fires small, while minimizing resource loss and fire costs.

The department will continue to follow state procurement laws and its designated dispatch procedures to meet the suppression needs on all wildfires. HB 3006-A would not impede the department's ability to suppress wildfires.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony with regard to HB 3006-A. If you have any questions, please contact me at 503-945-7204.

Sincerely,



Doug Grafe
Fire Protection Division Chief
503-945-7204
doug.grafe@oregon.gov

cc: Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resource Policy Manager
Lauri Aunan, Governor's Natural Resource Office
Tom Imeson, Board of Forestry, Chair
ODF Executive Team