



**OREGON FIRE DISTRICT  
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**  
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**Statement of Support: SB 5533**  
**Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST)**  
**Ways And Means – Public Safety Subcommittee**  
**January 30, 2019 – 3:00 pm**  
**Genoa Ingram**

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA), formed in 1950, 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, who serve without compensation, are responsible for the financial and management oversight of the Districts.

The Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA), formed in 1957, offers an annual training conference for volunteers, both members and non-members, providing hands-on and classroom training as well as networking opportunities. These conferences rotate around the state, helping educate and train Oregon's 7,800 volunteer firefighters who must adhere to the same training requirements as paid firefighters.

Both associations strongly support strengthening the budget of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). Of particular interest to the OFDDA and the OVFA is the DPSST Fire Training and Certification program for career and volunteer firefighters. The program ensures that when emergencies happen, emergency services personnel are trained to respond, provide lifesaving services, and minimize property loss. The program provides training and certification for over 11,000 fire service professionals.

The DPSST has also been a strong and supportive partner for both OFDDA and OVFA training conferences, generously providing instructors and helping ensure the courses offered are DPSST certified. The 2019 OVFA volunteer training conference will be held June 26-29 at Deschutes County Fairground. The majority of instructors are provided by DPSST. We would be unable to deliver these critical training opportunities without the participation and partnership of the DPSST.

The DPSST plays an intricate role in protecting the public by reviewing the certifications of firefighters and de-certifying any fire service or other public safety personnel who may pose a threat to the public.

DPSST also supports the Oregon Department of Forestry when the Governor mobilizes the Oregon National Guard. At the request of the Oregon Department of Forestry, DPSST provides wildland firefighter training to members of the National Guard being mobilized to assist with fire suppression efforts across the state. Fire program employees also

participate in and respond as part of the State Fire Marshal's Incident Management Team. The program is funded primarily through the Fire Insurance Premium Tax (FIPT), a 1.15 percent surcharge on all fire insurance policies written in the State of Oregon. OFDDA has a long history of fighting to preserve and protect FIPT funding.

DPSST continues to work diligently to meet the needs of all public safety providers as described above. The Department has submitted policy option packages to add staff to address the heavy workload. Both OFDDA and OVFA support these funding packages.

On behalf of rural fire protection districts throughout Oregon, we urge your support of SB 5533. The Oregon Fire District Directors Association and the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association thank you for the opportunity to place our support of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training on the record for your consideration and urge you to act favorably on the agency's budget.