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Via Electronic Mail

May 8, 2019

To: House Committee on Revenue; [and many others].

Re: I SUPPORT [HB 2138].

[HB 2138]: "Extends sunset for tax credit for provision of volunteer emergency medical services in rural area."

Rural Oregon is under siege.

The Legislature has determined to destroy Oregon's Natural Resource economies of; Forest, Timber products, Fisheries and Agriculture. Economic development, rural enterprise zones and housing schemes are the weapons of choice.

Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services Districts are experiencing serious difficulties in their recruiting and maintaining qualified personnel to save our worthless butts if we end up in dire straits in what is left of rural Oregon. The "sunset for tax credit" should have "No" end and last in perpetuity.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, which includes Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Paramedics who participate in this very valuable program, sacrifice paying for their training and required Continuing Education Units. These sacrifices DO NOT INCLUDE time away from family and risking life and limb to save others.

The meager tax credit offered to these "Volunteer Heroes and Heroines" by the Legislature is unacceptably low.

If tax credit is the only remuneration available for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the tax credit should be substantial and certainly not the pathetic \$250.00 or the other amounts so listed, predicated percentages and or population densities of neighboring municipalities.

A comprehensive review of the Emergency Medical Services program benefits is unacceptably overdue. Educational reimbursements, uniform reimbursements and retirement packages need to be discussed and funded. Start deliberations now for FY2020-2021.

I have heard of "No" benefits for "Widows and Orphans" should any of these valiant heroes and heroines give their lives in the pursuits of saving others. This too must change.

Disaster Preparedness requires resources.

Someone in the Legislature should author such a Bill to provide resources.

Again, rural Oregon is under siege.

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VOTE "YES" ON [HB 2138]!

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David S. Wall