



Oregon Outdoors

February 10, 2020

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 4111

Chair Evans, Vice Chairs Lewis and Meek and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Oregon Outdoors, I write today in support of HB 4111. Oregon Outdoors (www.oregonoutdoors.org) is a recently-established and rapidly growing coalition of more than thirty outdoor recreation businesses, recreation organizations, and conservation groups committed to the preservation of Oregon's outdoor assets for future generations.

Our coalition has established a common set of legislative priorities that seek to protect and expand outdoor recreation access and infrastructure, promote the outdoor recreation economy in Oregon, and support responsible recreation -- including funding for Search and Rescue (SAR) services that are often fiscally strained as they work to serve both visitors and residents who participate at an increasing frequency in outdoor recreation in our state.

House Bill 4111 creates a voluntary Search and Rescue Card and a related fund that will receive revenues from card sales and from additional sources, and is to be managed by the Oregon State Sheriffs Association under Office of Emergency Management (OEM) oversight. The revenues will go to support SAR needs statewide via partnership between OEM and OSSA and via criteria established in the bill. The funds will provide support sheriffs throughout the state and their volunteer first-responder partners, specifically for SAR-related needs.

The legislation is a consensus product resulting from a broad collaboration that included the following interests:

- Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
- Oregon Outdoors
- Volunteer First Responders
- Travel Oregon
- Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association
- PNSAA Pacific Northwest Ski Area Association
- Office of Emergency Management
- Office of Outdoor Recreation

- Oregon State Marine Board

HB 4111 is a revised version of SB 448 from last session, which passed through the Senate Committee of Environment and Natural Resources 5-0. SB 448 was sent to Ways & Means due to an indeterminate fiscal and did not advance from there. HB 4111 will have a minimal fiscal impact and additional state funds are not needed to administer the program.

This legislation is a small first step in addressing the larger needs for a growing problem to support SAR and responsible recreation response in the state. Our group will continue to meet to ensure this program is implemented effectively and that additional recreational response solutions are found.

We fully support this legislation, and thank you for the opportunity to write testimony about this important issue.



Oregon Outdoors Coalition Members

