



## **Senate Bill 1514 / 1515 - Support**

To: Senate Committee On Wildfire Reduction and Recovery  
From: Central Oregon LandWatch  
Date: February 3, 2020

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Dear Chair Golden:

On behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch, I would like to offer our support of SB 1514 and SB 1555 (Demonstration projects for reducing risk and research of creation of a wildfire workforce foundation, respectively) and urge the Committee On Wildfire Reduction and Recovery to vote in favor of both pieces of legislation.

Although Central Oregon has always been at risk of wildfire incidents, the continued expansion of development further and further into rural enclaves increases the priority of wildfire mitigation efforts.

Precautionary efforts as envisioned by SB 1514 and SB 1515 play a vital role in ensuring that our neighbors, our natural resources, and our infrastructure are better protected against this kind of risk.

Please also recognize the relevance of strong land use regulations as a wildfire risk mitigation tool. Significant development in wildfire-prone areas is often both an underlying cause of wildfire incidents, and also an increased risk to human life when that development outpaces what the surrounding infrastructure can safely bear.

Central Oregon LandWatch supports a YES vote on SB 1514 and SB 1515.

Thank you.

*Michael Selvaggio*