



From the Desk of Representative Dacia Grayber

June 25, 2021

Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR, 97301

Re: At-Risk City Support for Senate Bill 762C

JUN 26 2021

Speaker Kotek, Leaders Smith Warner and Drazan, and Members of the Oregon House:

We write today, as a group of fifteen cities, to express our strong support for Senate Bill 762C.

As cities, we range in size from some of Oregon's smallest to some of its largest. We represent communities throughout the state including Southern Oregon, Central Oregon, Eastern Oregon, the Columbia Gorge, and the Willamette Valley. Some of us are more urban in nature while many of us are more rural in nature. And as a group, we possess tremendous geographic, political, and cultural diversity.

Two things we unquestionably have in common, however, are the increasing threat that catastrophic wildfire poses to our communities and our full support for SB 762C.

SB 762C represents a comprehensive and long-overdue framework for moving Oregon, as a state, forward in addressing the threats of catastrophic wildfire. The 2020 wildfire season was unprecedented in its destruction. And we face another difficult year ahead. We don't need any more eye-openers. The time to act is now.

We were not all supporters of SB 762 at the outset. But as the bill continued to take shape, and as we continued to advocate for the needs of our communities, we began to see not just a structure we could support, but our needs reflected in the details of the bill as well as strong commitments to ensuring a balanced and inclusive administrative rulemaking process to follow.

The long-term success of SB 762, and the protection of our communities, will rely very heavily on the administrative rulemaking processes, including the wildfire and risk-mapping processes led by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the defensible space requirement processes led by the Oregon State Fire Marshall. Local government involvement in those processes is crucial to long-term success. Why? Because no one knows our communities, our local circumstances, and our local needs the way we do. The State simply can't do this well without us.

SB 762C is not perfect. There is no way a bill of this magnitude could be. But it is a very good bill and it is a sorely needed bill. We can't wait any longer to move Oregon forward on wildfire. We ask the Oregon House to put aside its remaining differences and move this proposal into law today.