Senate Concurrent Resolution 6

Sponsored by Senator GIROD (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Commends Mill City Rural Fire Protection District and other first responders for their heroic actions in fighting Santiam Fire.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas on August 16, 2020, thunderstorms moved across the State of Oregon and lightning ignited multiple wildfires, including the Beachie Creek Fire, the Lionshead Fire and the P-515 Fire; and

Whereas on September 7, powerful winds caused the wildfires to explode in size and merge into the Santiam Fire, a situation exacerbated by multiple spot fires caused by downed power lines; and

Whereas in the early morning hours of September 8, the Santiam Fire raced westward down the Santiam Canyon, quickly endangering many communities, including Detroit, Gates, Idanha, Lyons and Mill City; and

Whereas residents of the Santiam Canyon were urgently evacuated and fire crews were ordered to fall back in the face of the catastrophic and unpredictable wind-whipped wildfire; and

Whereas facing the possibility of massive property destruction and loss of lives, the firefighters of the Mill City Rural Fire Protection District stood their ground and desperately fought to save their community; and

Whereas Chief Leland Ohrt and approximately 30 volunteers battled the raging wildfire and kept it from roaring through the heart of Mill City; and

Whereas Mill City Mayor Tim Kirsch said, “our local guys stayed because this is their home”; and

Whereas due to the heroic actions of the firefighters, Mill City emerged from the wildfire largely intact; and

Whereas the wildfire scarred many properties, but an estimated 90 percent of Mill City’s homes and businesses survived and there was no loss of life in the community; and

Whereas the Santiam Fire was ultimately one of the most destructive wildfires in the history of the State of Oregon; and

Whereas in the aftermath of the wildfire, Mill City residents have begun rebuilding efforts in their own community, but they have also devoted themselves and their resources to helping their Santiam Canyon sister cities, which suffered horrific destruction; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor the actions of the firefighters of the Mill City Rural Fire Protection District, who battled the Santiam Fire and saved their community; and be it further

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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Resolved, That we express our gratitude to all the public and private entities and first responders who fought the Santiam Fire with heroism and great determination; and be it further
Resolved, That we extend our sympathy and condolences to the many Oregonians who suffered unimaginable loss as a result of the Santiam Fire, and we declare our full support for the massive rebuilding effort in the affected communities.

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