



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

Chair Paul Evans
House Veterans and Emergency Management Committee

February 4, 2021

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lewis, Committee Members,

Good afternoon, for the record I am Karl Koenig, President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council speaking today on HB 2426 which authorizes the issuance of \$5,000,000 worth of Bonds and specifies what equipment is part of an Urban Search and Rescue ensemble.

HB 2426 is the right bill at the right time for Oregon's established USAR teams. We believe the policy, direction and responsible amount of funding is the right direction for Oregon.

Clear timelines, the use of current mission ready teams and the oversight of Oregon Emergency Management provides accountability, resources to outfit our established teams throughout Oregon.

The entire State of Oregon is still experiencing the effects of the 2020 Wildfire Season either in organizational planning and up to actual destruction of entire communities. HB 2426 responsibly plans, funds and equips Oregon's highest level USAR teams with the equipment they need to respond to the next crisis, catastrophe or calamity we often can't even imagine.

On behalf of the 3500 career fire fighters and paramedics and the regional USAR Teams in Medford, Eugene Springfield, Salem, Hillsboro Gresham, Albany, Clackamas, Tualatin Valley and Portland we urge a Yes Vote in committee on HB 2426.

Karl Koenig
President
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
karlk@osffc.org

265 Commercial Street S.E., Suite 260 • Salem, Oregon 97301 • Phone (503) 540-0648 • Fax (503) 391-5878

www.osffc.org