

RE: House Bill 2572  
DATE:17 March 2021

Good afternoon, I am Geoffrey Becker, a 30 year resident of Applegate, Oregon and a 15 year veteran board member of the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council.

I have witnessed numerous fires in the Applegate Valley and have endured countless smoke-filled summers. I have listened to many forestry professionals warning us of the catastrophic possibilities of future fires. With a century of over-aggressive fire suppression and the reality of climate change, we should all realize that the clock is counting down. I am confident that many of my fellow Applegaters and Oregonians would utilize controlled burns if the procedures were not so onerous.

This bill is long overdue; I urge you to enact it into law as soon as possible. With the reality of the Almeda fire fresh in our minds, the time is past due to get this bill enacted.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Becker  
Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council