

Dear Committee,

Finding better ways to help Oregon communities vulnerable to forest fires is essential work. Hearing that survivors of the Talent fire are still waiting for any help from FEMA makes it clear that our people cannot depend on recovery resources after the fact of the fire. We need wildfire risk mapping, building code updates, drinking water source protection, and development of a wildfire workforce. Now is an important opportunity to enhance community resiliency to wildfire as climate change worsens. What we do not need is more thinning in distant forests because that has no impact on the fire damage sustained locally. Jobs and support for resilience may come with hardening properties to withstand ignition from embers. Please do pass SB762.

Thank you for your consideration