

Dear Legislators. I am writing in support of SB 762, which is a critically needed piece of legislation to protect our forests for their economic benefit, including timber production, water quality, recreational use and habitat for wildlife. Over the past several years I have traveled throughout eastern and central Oregon on camping trips in my truck camper, and I have seen the horrific damage wildfires have done to our forests. I have also seen forests heavily overgrown with timber and brush that could burn up quickly. Last summer, my camping trip along the McKenzie was cancelled because of the wildfires. And while I recognize that fire is a necessary component of healthy forests, fires of the magnitude Oregon has experienced in recent years go far beyond what is good for our economy and for wildlife.

It is important to address this issue quickly. I understand the issue has been studied for a number of years and that SB 762 is based on science and best practices. Our forests, and the communities they surround, need your help. I urge you to support this bill.

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