

Chairs Reardon and Taylor and Members of the Committee,

My name is Roger Beyer and I am here representing Oregon Small Woodlands Association. OSWA will not take a position on SB 5518 until we see the final components of the bill, but we do support the mission of ODF and have always been willing to help support that mission by paying our fair share to support the agency.

Due to the complexity of the ODF budget and the short time limits for each person wishing to testify, there will be three others testifying on behalf of OSWA today. So that we are not duplicating the testimony, each of us will speak to a different part of the DOF budget.

The area I will focus on is the proposed cost shift of the Admin Prorate from the state general fund to landowners in the Governor's proposed budget. OSWA is opposed to this cost shift.

This funding model has historically been approved to recognize the value of the in-kind resources provided by landowners to the complete and coordinated system of wildfire fighting we have in Oregon. The recently completed study done by Earth Economics which was presented to this committee was incomplete on that issue. We would encourage you to fund completion of that study so that we would have the updated data that many of you have requested.

To demonstrate the value of the in-kind resources provided by landowners and in recognition of the tight timelines for testimony, Rick Barnes and I have each recorded a video describing the contribution by landowners in the past year. Please see my written testimony for a link to view the videos.

<https://youtu.be/X4h7VXwQm-k> Roger Beyer testimony about Beachie Creek Fire

https://youtu.be/8avcsODxI_A Rick Barnes testimony about Archie Creek Fire

In the absence of new data, OSWA feels it would be premature to shift additional costs onto landowners. As I stated previously, we have always been willing to pay a fair share of costs, but this proposal does nothing to help increase the capacity of firefighting in the state.

I would also point out that the Governor's budget, which called for this cost shift, was created at a time when the state budget was projected to have a significant deficit. Due to the rebounding economy and the influx of billions of dollars in federal funds, that is no longer the case. Our members would see shifting costs from the general fund to landowners at this time to be purely punitive. If landowners are to pay more, they should get increased services or there should be data to support the increase, neither of these are offered by this proposal at this time.

OSWA urges you to reject the proposed cost shift and pass an ODF budget that can be supported by all Oregonians.