



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

**International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC**

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lewis, Vice Chair Meek and Committee members,

For the record, Karl Koenig, representing over 3500 career fire fighters and paramedics serving the entire State of Oregon residence and visitors.

We are in support of House Bill 2927 the renaming and establishing the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

The last year exemplifies the challenges we as a State face, while the fires are long extinguished the magnitude is still affecting many Oregon's communities, COVID 19 is still ravishing the lives of each Oregonian physically, mentally or economically, sometimes it can be all three. There is no reason to think we've had our last fire or pandemic.

This new Independent Agency organizationally gives the resources to all of Oregon's Emergency Management needs before, during and after incidents they deserve. Planning for eventuality is a mindset that is meant to maximize efficiency and minimize impact. The centralization and organization in one place are beneficial to all Oregonians and its first responders.

We are proud to be part of the solution and this Bill is another step to the efficient and directed work on Oregon's Emergency Management challenges.

Please add the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council to the supporters of independent agency status for the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Koenig
President
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council

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