



Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Wildfire Recovery
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Golden & Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the work you and your colleagues around the state are doing to help recover and rebuild from the devastating wildfires that impacted our communities around Oregon. The Association of Oregon Counties, League of Oregon Cities, and Oregon Building Officials Association understand the need to look at a comprehensive approach to wildfire recovery and would like to be included in these conversations as policies begin to evolve and move through the legislature.

As your local partners in recovery efforts, we want to offer our expertise and support as we work to clean up, rebuild, and begin to help our shared constituents that were displaced from their families, friends, and communities. The state, counties, and cities have already begun that work and we're hearing from our planners, building officials, and municipal leadership about their efforts to expedite and create flexibility within existing statute and administrative rule to get people back into their communities and begin rebuilding as quickly as possible. While we're doing everything we can within our existing regulatory framework, we understand changes are needed to help support and protect Oregonians impacted by the wildfires both now and into the future.

We are aware that there are multiple legislative concepts in both the Senate and the House covering a range of topics relating to wildfire with many acting as a starting point for the conversation amongst stakeholders. We are hopeful that as those conversations begin and progress that we will be included as a partner in helping solve this critical issue. **As municipal interests, some of the items of greatest importance to us include non-conforming use, timelines for rebuilding, flexibility around decisions related to planning and building codes, and ensuring that the rebuilding process is efficient and includes confidence for the individuals that these decisions won't be drawn into question through unnecessary appeals and delays.**

We look forward to participating in these conversations and we appreciate your work on this issue.

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