



February 1, 2021

Members of the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

Submitted via electronic mail

Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Marsh, Members of the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery:

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), representing Oregon's 36 county governments, I write today in support for House Bill 2341.

This bill provides much-needed parity for proration for both damaged and destroyed properties impacted by the 2020 wildfires. It also allows assessors to submit affected properties for proration instead of the property owners, saving both time and emotional energy following traumatic losses. Finally, this bill clarifies that proration in these cases will be tied to real market value, a common-sense approach to relief that is intelligible and equitable.

This bill came to fruition through a wildfire property tax relief workgroup convened by Representative Pam Marsh following the devastating wildfires that took place in September of 2020. AOC, the League of Oregon Cities, the Oregon State Association of County Assessors, the Oregon Department of Revenue, and many other stakeholders participated in this workgroup and the policy discussions that lead to HB 2341. This bill is forward-looking and will alleviate suffering of future disaster victims through achievable, administratable means.

While counties rely on every property tax dollar to provide vital services as efficiently as possible to the citizens of Oregon, our members recognize the dire need to provide relief for disaster victims. AOC sincerely thanks Representative Marsh, Representative Gomberg, and Senator Findley for seeking out local government input and looks forward to supporting disaster relief policy.

Regards,

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