

# Calapooia Rural Fire Protection District

c/o Sutherlin Fire Dept.

250 S. State St.

Sutherlin, OR 97479



February 22, 2022

Oregon House Review Committee  
900 Court Street NE, Room 160  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1582

Calapooia Rural Fire District is very similar to many Rural Fire Districts found across the State of Oregon. We currently have open borders that allow for individual properties to be located within our district, however, not be required to pay properties taxes. These properties are part of the Fire Service issue that plaque our state. We all must pay our fair share, so these Rural Fire Districts have budgets to prepare for emergencies. Relying on bill for service is a flawed concept that only relies on services rendered. Rural Fire Districts must be able to fund daily operations, capital purchases, and save for future construction as well as equipment replacement. By allowing individuals to not pay fire taxes, we are setting our Rural Fire Districts up for failure.

It simply cannot be the responsibility of current tax pays to subsidize the non-paying for the current operations. How is that fair or logical? We all must do our part to ensure that the Oregon Fire Service is funded to prepare for the everchanging threats to this great State.

I ask that you support SB 1582 to not only correct this issue but start preparing the Oregon Fire Service for the future. We must all do our share to ensure that we have well-funded, well trained, and properly outfitted firefighters to respond within a moment's notice. If not, we fail our communities and our people.

Sincerely,



Scott McKnight  
Deputy Fire Chief  
Calapooia Rural Fire District