

Submitter: Gerald Boyd

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB509

I am completely in favor of public education programs funded by the state and provided by the local fire department designed to reduce wildfire risk. There are many relatively inexpensive things property owners can do to create defensible space and reduce the potential for damage from wildfires.

Having said that I am completely opposed to the use of a map to determine risk UNLESS each property noted in said map has been inspected in person to determine vulnerability for fire. Maps based on overhead photography do not necessarily provide an accurate picture of individual properties and steps the property owner may have taken to reduce the impact of a wildfire.

Finally, living in an area susceptible to wild fire I can assure you that properties most in need of maintenance and creation of defensible space are NOT privately owned. The greatest risk in my region is overgrown and unmaintained land managed by the U S Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and State of Oregon. Unless and until those extensive properties are properly treated and maintained all of the efforts by adjacent private property owners will be for naught.

I am a former Fire Chief of a fire district susceptible to major wildland fires