

Submitter: Tom Mooney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB847

While the intentions of the bill mean well in an attempt to provide more affordable housing this bill has a direct impact to fire districts throughout Oregon. Most fire districts already lose money due to urban renewal districts and enterprise zones. There needs to be an exemption within this bill that requires property owners to still pay for fire district taxes. The residents of these properties still require fire and EMS coverage and when they call 911 they will be receiving services that they don't pay into. It would be possible for fire districts to create internal policy so as to not respond to those locations located within or outside of the fire district since no taxes are collected. As more and more bills like this are presented you put fire districts in an uncomfortable position to increase the amount of their levies and make decisions to not respond. Fire districts rely on property taxes as their primary source of funding.