



ROGUE VALLEY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
8383 AGATE RD.
WHITE CITY, OR 97503

March 21, 2023

Representative Darcia Grayber, Chair
Representative Rick Lewis, Vice Chair
Representative Thuy Tran, Vice Chair
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans

Subject: Endorsement for HB 2522-4

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Lewis and Tran, and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this letter of endorsement for support of HB-2522-4.

The Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association, a collaboration of 20 fire agencies in S.W. Oregon, has voted to endorse HB 2522-4, a bill designed to analyze current structural fire protection in rural Oregon.

For decades Oregon has worked to improve structural fire protection in Oregon, however, is still using an 88-year old statute when it comes to rural fire protection. We support the concept of forming a committee to review and make recommendations on updating this statute. The most recent revision of this statute was done 66 years ago and much has changed since then.

The population of rural Oregon has grown, for example Josephine County has tripled in population during that timeframe. Construction materials and contents have also greatly changed. As such the fire service has changed in how we respond to fires in these buildings. These rural locations are also near vegetation making it important that fires are quickly and aggressively extinguished to avoid any spread to the wildland, and potential conflagration fires that might threaten the more populated communities near them. It is time for a contemporary review of the fire protection plan for these areas.

We pledge to support this process. Please pass HB 2522-4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin Prince", is written over a long, horizontal, sweeping line that extends to the right.

Austin Prince, President
Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association
