



Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District
“Protecting Life and Property through Quality Service”

March 24, 2023

Senate Committee On
Finance and Revenue

Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 1068 and the reasonable modifications to statute related to the inclusion of lands into rural fire protection districts. I have personally been involved with the process of annexing lands into rural fire protection districts for the past 20 years. During my work in this capacity, I have identified countless homes that are located in close proximity to existing fire stations, yet are not paying taxes to the local fire district. Often, the owners of the homes aren't aware of the issue and quickly petition to annex into the fire district. In some cases, the owners of these homes choose not to annex into the fire district because they are receiving many of benefits as their neighbors without paying taxes for the service.

SB 1068 provides an option for rural fire protection districts to establish a coverage area within seven road miles of a fire station which is recognized by a fire insurance rating organization and has equipment and personnel who respond to 911 calls. The seven mile limit is consistent with guidelines established by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) which may issue a 10W rating for these properties. SB 1068 also requires coordination with adjoining fire protection agencies as well as public notice to homeowners within the coverage area.

While SB 1068 doesn't solve all of the challenges of increasing growth and development within the wildland urban interface, it is a logical and reasonable approach. I urge the committee to pass SB 1068.

Sincerely,

Roger Johnson

Roger Johnson
Fire Chief
Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District