



**Douglas County Professional Firefighters  
IAFF Local 2091**

March 27, 2023

Senate Committee On  
Finance and Revenue

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

I am writing this letter on behalf of Douglas County Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 2091 in support of SB 1068. This letter is a result of a unanimous vote of support by our membership. We feel that this is a very important bill not only for our Fire District, but also for many other Fire Districts in the state of Oregon. As with many Fire Districts within rural areas across the state of Oregon, we have had the burden of financial stresses with the upkeep of our fire stations and staffing. We feel that the passage of this bill would be a large step forward toward reaching staffing and safety as outlined in NFPA Standard 1710, minimum staffing standards.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets the standards for all aspects of the fire service. Specifically NFPA 1710 outlines the minimum standard for staffing levels of the fire service. NFPA 1710 states that an engine company staffing is a minimum of 4 members. Currently at Douglas County Fire District No. 2 (DCFD2) and Winston-Dillard Fire District No. 5 (WDFD), most of our stations are staffed with only 2 career firefighters. To further clarify, we provide fire protection, ambulance service, technical rescue, county wide extrication, wildland protection, and fire prevention to 47,000 citizens with 405 square miles of fire district service area. All of this is accomplished with daily staffing of 12-15 line firefighters and 7 different stations.

With the passage of SB 1068, it would create additional financial resources. This allows DCFD2 and WDFD to get closer to the staffing needed to create a safer and more effective environment not only for our firefighters, but the people that we serve. The membership of Douglas County Professional Firefighters strongly feels that this is a logical and reasonable approach to ease some of the financial burden and urges you to vote in support of SB 1068.

Sincerely,

*Mitchell K. Doss*

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