



April 30, 2023

Dear Committee Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist, and Committee Members,

I am providing written testimony in support of SB 1068. When most Rural Fire Protection Districts were formed, their boundaries and borders often contained void spaces due to no homes or improvements on rural properties. Some owners were never made aware that they don't have fire protection, yet, the expectation of services when calling for help in an emergency exists in our modern, service-demanding society.

Many homeowners outside of the rural districts benefit from ISO ratings built by their closest fire agency, yet pay nothing to receive such a generous discount on their homeowner's insurance policy. Lastly, the fire service, born out of a commitment to serve, will sacrifice revenues and dollars to assist a fellow human in need. We have a moral and ethical obligation to respond, and the Oregon Fire Service does this hundreds of times per day without question. Property owners who are incorporated in the District end up covering the cost for those who are not and, in most cases, receive the same service free of charge.

Rural Fire Districts across the state constantly need to evolve to meet the needs of their growing communities. This includes but is not limited to buying more apparatus, hiring additional staff, or even building new stations. All these things affect our Districts and those who live within their confines. In most cases, taxpayers of Fire Districts burden all of these things.

I ask that you support SB 1068, move it to the chamber floor and help its passage. Your Oregon Fire Service needs support, and all Oregonians deserve reliable, accessible, and effective emergency services delivery.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Daniels".

Bryan Daniels
Fire Chief
Depoe Bay Rural Fire Protection District