



# OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters  
AFL-CIO CLC

Senator Manning, Vice Chair Thatcher, members of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, and World Affairs,

The Oregon State Fire Fighter Council represents 3700 professional firefighters within the State of Oregon.

After September 11th, 2001 the federal government created a funding mechanism to support search and rescue programs throughout the United States, including eight regional teams in Oregon. The fire departments within Oregon have shown their worth since 9/11, responding to severe weather events, wildland events such as the 2020 Labor Day fires, protests, and COVID pandemics—all while still doing our normal day to day calls such as medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, and house fires.

Search and Rescue programs are valuable assets and one that Oregon deserves to have. We know an earthquake is coming at some point, and the next flood (like the 1996 floods) will happen again. This search and rescue program will save lives when these events occur. The Surfside condominium collapse near Miami, Florida is a good example of what these resources could respond to.

The Oregon State Fire Fighters Council supports HB 2484A and we respectfully request that you do as well.

Karl Koenig  
President

Alan Ferschweiler  
Legislative Director