



OREGON PROPERTY OWNERS
— ASSOCIATION —



**Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Support Testimony for SB 83 -7**

Chair Golden, members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of SB 83 with the -7 amendment. By way of background, the Oregon Home Builders Association represents over 3,000 members engaged in the residential construction industry and advocates for homeownership opportunities for all. The Oregon Property Owners Association has represented Oregon property owners before the Legislature, local governments, state agencies and Oregon courts for nearly 40 years, with more than 12,000 contributors across the state, including all 36 Oregon counties.

When SB 762 was enacted in 2021, its intent was to enhance wildfire preparedness and resilience—a goal we all support. However, the implementation of the Wildfire Hazard Map has revealed serious flaws that have caused undue harm to property owners, particularly in rural areas. These issues must be addressed to ensure fairness and to restore confidence in our legislative processes. With this in mind, we offer our support for SB 83 -7.

SB 83-7 is a practical, no-nonsense response to the wildfire management challenges Oregon has faced in recent years. The bill repeals the most flawed and overreaching aspects of SB 762 from 2021, including the State Wildfire Hazard Map, while preserving the programs that genuinely protect property owners and reduce wildfire risks. More specifically, SB 83 -7:

- Eliminates the State Wildfire Hazard Map;
- Removes OSFM's authority to impose defensible space, but allows OSFM to create a defensible space model code, with limitations, which local governments can choose to adopt;
- Eliminates DCBS authority to mandate statewide home hardening requirements for new homes based on the Map;
- Keeps OSFM's community risk reduction program and ODF's landscape resiliency programs, which have been used by the agencies to obtain federal and state funds to greatly enhance wildfire protection in Oregon;

- Restores a clear definition of “wildland urban interface” (WUI) that is more appropriate than the definition created by ODF, and clarifies that it should only be used for funding critical treatment and mitigation projects;
- Eliminates the requirements to disclose a property’s WUI designation on real estate disclosure forms; and
- Eliminates all final orders designating hazard designations issued by ODF in January.

Most importantly, by emphasizing local control, SB 83 -7 returns power to the communities most affected by wildfire policies, empowering them to make decisions that reflect their unique needs and circumstances. At the same time, it ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent where they matter most, supporting voluntary efforts to improve defensible space, promote forest thinning, and enhance wildfire readiness in rural Oregon.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 83 with the -7 amendment. Thank you for allowing us to provide these comments at this time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Dave Hunnicutt: dhunnicutt@oregonpropertyowners.org

Jodi Hack: jodi@oregonhba.com