

Submitter: Mary Ellen Barilotti
On Behalf Of: Mary Ellen Barilotti and family
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3944

Please support HB 3944. It, in part, repeals the misleading wildfire hazard maps which purport to designate individual property hazard values. The maps do so without documentation of any particularized assessment of fire hazards/risks on individual properties. Both SB 762 and SB 80 apparently precluded such an assessment by only authorizing considerations of weather, climate, topography, and vegetation when creating wild fire zones. Yet, the maps created include notices to property owners of their individual property fire hazard values, a value which could/would be inaccurate had the property been individually considered.

The maps also mischaracterize properties as being within a high fire hazard zone even though the properties meet the four criteria test in determining properties in the moderate hazard zone.

While repealing the negative provisions in prior statutes, HB3944 keeps in place fuel reduction and resiliency programs giving ODF the authority to receive funding to provide for wildfire mitigation activities. Through the grant program managed by ODF, I was assisted in meeting ODF's fuel reduction specifications on my property. I paid \$16,500.00 for the work performed. ODF reimbursed me \$4,500.00 as its share of the cost sharing agreement. While I paid a greater amount, the program was an incentive for me to further mitigate fire risks on my property.

I live in Hood River County. The County developed, and updates, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) It is comprehensive in scope, addressing local needs and priorities. Allowing local jurisdictions to continue in this work, along with guidance and incentives from the State, should be encouraged. HB 3944, by repealing one size fits all requirements, allows counties to continue in their efforts in cooperation with overall State interests.

I encourage your support of HB 3944