



April 28, 2025

Rep. John Lively and Committee Members  
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 85A

Dear Chair Lively and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon supports SB 85A, a bill designed to ensure Oregonians' homes and communities are more wildfire prepared and safe. 1000 Friends is a nonprofit organization that works with Oregonians to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice. This includes incorporating land use tools into programs to address climate change resiliency, including ensuring Oregon communities have the information and resources needed to mitigate and prepare for wildfires.

Senate Bill 85A directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) and the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), in consultation with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the insurance industry, to evaluate, develop, and report on community-based wildfire risk mitigation actions, and programs to reduce wildfire risk and positively impact insurance affordability and availability. This includes looking at both property-specific and community-level actions and programs put forth by OSFM and the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, including defensible space and "home hardening." The agencies must submit a report to the Legislature by February 2, 2026.

Senate Bill 85A incorporates the first steps necessary to inform and empower property owners and communities in how to mitigate wildfire risk, and to potentially have a positive impact on insurance availability and affordability. But it is only the first step. We encourage the legislature to fund, including in this session, continued work by OSFM and other agencies that are actually conducting defensible space actions and providing technical assistance and grants for this work and for home hardening. We urge you to pass SB 85A. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Kyle McCurdy".

Associate Director