

South Lane County Fire & Rescue

233 Harrison Avenue
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Phone: 541-942-4493

Fax: 541-942-3367

May 15, 2025

Honorable Chair Nathanson
Honorable Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters
Honorable Members of the Committee on Revenue

Re: HB-3518

Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for your dedication and service to the State of Oregon, and for the opportunity to provide comment on HB-3518.

I am writing this letter in support of HB-3518 which would help stabilize, diversify, and index the County Assessment Function Funding Assistance Account mechanism.

I am the Fire Chief for South Lane County Fire and Rescue which provides 24/7 response in southern Lane County. I have been in the Oregon Fire Service for 34 years and know firsthand the struggles special districts face with funding.

As a special district we rely on property tax as our funding mechanism to operate the district and provide the highest possible service to our citizens. Having accurate up-to-date valuations is crucial to this funding mechanism. The call volume in our district has increased over 600% in the past decade and adding FTE to meet this demand depends on our property tax revenue.

This Bill will help our county tax assessor by adding capacity to a drastically understaffed, but crucial function which is to maintain up to date property valuations. By virtue of this, our District benefits by the potential for increased property tax revenue. This in turn directly benefits those we provide 24/7 emergency services to as we may be able to better plan for firefighter/paramedic FTEs, fleet and facility upgrades to name a few.

I urge you to please support HB-3518. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John R Wooten

John R Wooten
Fire Chief

"We protect life, property and the environment through quality service"