



To: Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Chief Brian Stewart
Assistant Chief, Clackamas Fire District
Legislative Chair, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Date: February 2, 2026

Re: HB 4108 – Testimony in Neutral Position

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the committee,

The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association represents members of the over 300 fire agencies in Oregon. Our membership is comprised of city fire departments, rural fire protection districts, and other fire agencies in the state. Our members work together and strive to provide high-quality fire and life safety protection services, assuring that caring for their communities are their top priority.

HB 4108 provides for annexation of noncontiguous lands by cities without holding a public meeting or submitting the proposal to the electors of the city under certain circumstances. While this bill reduces the burdens of annexing into a city in certain circumstances, the bill may also cause unintended impacts to the sustainability and coordinated delivery of fire, EMS, and rescue services. The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) has been engaged in several discussions on this topic. We understand that the current language is being reviewed and may be amended. The OFCA will review any amendment and provide updated testimony as appropriate.

While discussions between stakeholders may be continuing, the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association would like to emphasize that it is critical for every fire agency, regardless of its governance or size, have adequate funding and resources to provide timely life and property-saving services.

As our members work together every day to protect Oregonians, the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association shares its caution that the pace and pressures of this short session may hasten the deliberate and thorough legislative process. Appropriate time and opportunity should be allowed to engage stakeholders and consider the impacts to both city fire departments and fire districts.

Please reach out to the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association if we can be a resource for your important work. Thank you for your commitment to Oregon and for considering our testimony.