

Submitter: Carol Valentine
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1551

As a resident of a high wildfire risk area (the Illinois Valley) of Southwest Oregon, I understand the importance of retrofitting homes to prevent ignition from firebrands and embers and house-to-house ignition. As a member of a Firewise community I know that increasing community wildfire preparedness rests with individual property owners working in partnership with local and state government. HB 1551 is a good tool for achieving wildfire-prepared communities. When a wildfire spreads from the wildlands to a neighborhood, which we have seen too often in high-wind wildfire events in our state, the materials used to construct homes and fences make a huge difference in how quickly that fire spreads and how many homes survive. And when homes are wildfire-prepared, firefighters are better protected and better able to marshal resources where most needed.

Under SB 1551, homeowner associations (HOAs) and similar entities would not be able to prohibit installing or maintaining fire-hardened materials on or around people's home and property, and would not be able to prohibit the removal of flammable fences or other structures from an owner's property. These are common sense steps that should govern the restrictions and conditions contained in HOA rules.

I urge you to pass SB 1551.