



La Pine Rural Fire Protection District

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Subject: Written Testimony in Support for House Bill 4156

Date: 02/03/2026

To: Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson, and Members of the Committee

My name is Erick Holsey, and I am the Fire Chief of La Pine Rural Fire Protection District. La Pine Rural Fire Protection District is a rural fire district located in Deschutes County which also provides ALS Transport services. Our Ambulance Service Area is over 600 square miles, we provided service to 2,275 EMS alarms, and transported 1736 patients in 2025. The service area in which we operate is rural and lacking any form of critical access hospital. This leads to higher-than-normal transport costs, prolonged periods of unit time on task, and a reduction in our ability to provide fire protection services while crews are dedicated to EMS alarms constituting 84% of the total alarm volume.

GEMT funding represents a sizable portion of our operating budget for our EMS services. This fiscal year GEMT funds have provided \$122,000 toward our program which assist our agency in maintaining one of our Firefighter/Paramedic positions, our most critical resource.

Support of HB 4156 does not extend money from the state, and nothing should change should the federal government continue its current funding model.

I would like to thank you all for your time and consideration in this matter and would like to encourage you to support HB 4156 for the health and welfare of our constituents in La Pine.

Sincerely,

Erick Holsey

Erick Holsey

Fire Chief