



CITY OF BEND

City Hall
710 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97703

February 3, 2026

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97701

RE: City of Bend Fire & Rescue in Support of SB 1551

Chair Golden and members of the Committee:

By ensuring that homeowners associations (HOAs) cannot prohibit owners from upgrading to fire-hardened building materials, SB 1551 addresses a recurring barrier for community members who want to reduce wildfire risk but are restricted by their CC&Rs.

Bend community members want to reduce wildfire risk, but many are limited by HOA rules that restrict fire-hardened materials. SB 1551 supports these residents by protecting their ability to use proven best practices.

The bill also aligns with the Bend City Council's goal to build wildfire resiliency through actions that reduce risks, including evaluating and updating local codes to reflect best practices. The Council will consider adopting Oregon Residential Specialty Code Section R327 to establish fire-hardening standards for new construction. SB 1551 complements local efforts by removing obstacles that prevent homeowners from making safety improvements and provides a bridge as broader code updates are being considered. The ability for residents to modify existing homes with ignition-resistant materials is critical for communitywide wildfire resilience.

Each fire-hardened home helps reduce structure ignition potential. When improvements occur across neighborhoods, the cumulative effect enhances firefighter safety, reduces the likelihood of structure-to-structure fire spread, and strengthens overall community preparedness.

Bend Fire & Rescue supports SB 1551 because it empowers residents, removes barriers, and strengthens wildfire-risk-reduction efforts. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd Riley, Fire Chief

Bend Fire & Rescue