

Submitter: Joe Fox
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or SB1541
Topic:

As a smokejumper and hot shot, I have fought fire in the western United States, Alaska, the Midwest, the southeast, and a lot of it has included Oregon. I have protected cabins and communities in the WUI with Pulaskis chainsaws, pumps and hoses, drip torches, and fusees. I have been involved in scores of prescribed burns and used fire to secure defensible lines on almost every fire. Nearly every wildland firefighter knows that fire is an essential component that allows fire prone ecosystems to thrive. SB 1541 will help increase the capacity of wild land firefighters, and WUI residents to prepare for and survive the coming onslaught of wildfire mediated by Global Warming. We need increased capacity to quickly respond using Prescribed fire as the windows of safe fire use narrow. We need the capacity to remove ladder fuel and form defensible spaces around structures. We need the capacity to assist communities in creating safe egress passages for emergencies. We need the capacity to constantly reduce fuel loading to decrease high intensity and high severity wildfires and encourage low intensity natural fire. SB 1541 will increase our capacity to respond to years of unthinking fire suppression by developing a sophisticated workforce that safely and ethically returns fire to ecosystems.