

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

As a lifelong community member in Oregon and having grown up in the rural McKenzie River community, I am very concerned about the future we face with wildfires. I was a firefighter with the Forest Service on the McKenzie River Ranger District for 4 summers from 2010 to 2013, and the fire conditions we are experiencing today are nothing like what was happening even 10 years ago. As things continue to progress, I can't even imagine what it will be like 10 years from now. This means we need to take action now and start/continue preparing our communities. From seeing how painfully slow the rebuilding process has been after the Holiday Farm Fire, being proactive and preparing homes and businesses for fire to prevent them from burning down will do so much more than trying to rebuild after fires. This will be continuous work year after year, which will require continuous money to help make this happen. Many home and business owners can fund this themselves, but many can not, especially in rural communities. Please pass this bill to give more people the opportunity for a fire-resilient future.