



From: Chief Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Ben Stange
Polk County Fire District No. 1
EMS and Fire Chapter of SDAO

Date: February 24, 2026

Re: SB 1551 – Testimony in Neutral Position

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) and the Special Districts Association of Oregon's Fire and Emergency Medical Services Chapter, we respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 201. This resolution honors the 75th anniversary and enduring contributions of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA).

Since 1950, the OFDDA has played a critical role in strengthening fire districts across Oregon through its mission, "to serve and strengthen fire districts through timely information, education, and legislation." This has created concrete programs and resources that benefit local fire service leadership and the communities they serve.

OFDDA members are unpaid, elected officials who give their personal time to support their districts' missions and their volunteer or career staff. OFDDA members serve on many committees that shape the fire service in our state such as the DPSST Board, Governor's Fire Service Policy Council, SDAO Legislative Committee, and the National Association of Elected Fire Officials. OFDDA also conducts a highly-attended annual conference and oversees a Length of Service Awards Program which provides a financially valuable benefit at a volunteer's retirement or under emergency circumstances.

The OFDDA is successful because of the dedication of their members and the heart of its Executive Director Genoa Ingram. Under Genoa's leadership, OFDDA has fostered stronger governance, promoted professional development, and advanced public safety. Her

collaboration with OFDDA members, fire chiefs, statewide associations, and emergency service stakeholders has improved the quality of fire and rescue services throughout Oregon.

The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the SDAO Fire and EMS Chapter deeply value OFDDA's leadership, partnership, and sustained dedication to Oregon's fire service. HCR 201 is a fitting tribute to an organization that has helped shape effective fire district governance and supported public safety for generations. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to support HCR 201, and we thank OFDDA for its continued service to Oregon's firefighters and communities.