

2/24/2026

To:

Chair Sen. Anthony Broadman
Vice-Chair Sen. Mike McLane
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

From: Judy Grell

RE: HB 4134 -1: Support for Amendment 1 to HB 4134: Oregon Conservation Corps (OCC)

Dear Chair Broadman and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of House Bill 4134-1, specifically the inclusion of funding for the Oregon Conservation Corps (OCC) at 0.1%. Programs supported through OCC provide critical assistance to communities working to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest and rangeland health, and protect homes, infrastructure, and wildlife habitat.

In our community, partnerships with conservation corps crews and affiliated programs have helped complete vegetation management and fuels reduction work that would otherwise have been difficult to accomplish due to limited staffing, funding, or technical capacity. These projects often address high-priority areas that directly affect community safety and landscape resilience.

When Paul Catino and Joe Beaton showed up with their crews on my property, I truly felt like the Cavalry had arrived. I live by myself on 7 acres of junipers and rocks; my disabled Veteran husband recently passed away, and I found myself with a serious unexpected health issue. We had just come out of a pretty challenging fire season in the canyon. Their crews widened the berth around my home and I welcomed them to try some different applications on some of the acreage. Paul and Joe were amazing to work with, communicated very well and kept me up to date on their progress. Their leadership with the young crews was so great to watch, they related well to the kids and seemed to have the respect of every youth on the crew. I appreciated that my land could be used to teach the young people very valuable skills and knowledge. I, too, learned so much from my encounters with Paul and Joe.

Programs like these not only improve safety and resilience on the ground but also help develop a skilled natural resource workforce to carry out the increasing amount of wildfire mitigation and land stewardship work needed across Oregon.

Continued investment through HB 4134-1 will help ensure that communities like ours can continue to partner on meaningful projects that protect people, property, and natural resources. For these reasons, Lake Chinook Fire and Rescue strongly supports House Bill 4134-1.

Sincerely,

Judy Grell
Homeowner
Juniper Canyon
Prineville, OR