



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: Levi Horn Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Specialist

Lake Chinook Fire and Rescue

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.

Lake Chinook Fire and Rescue strongly supports continued legislative funding for Heart of Oregon Corps as a critical partner in wildfire mitigation and community resilience across Central Oregon. Over the past five years, Heart of Oregon Corps crews have completed multiple hazardous fuels reduction projects within the Lake Chinook Fire and Rescue District, delivering professional, cost-effective mitigation work that directly reduces wildfire



risk to residents, infrastructure, and evacuation routes. Notable projects include the Crozier Project, a 3.15-acre shaded fuel break constructed on private property to reduce wildfire threat along a primary evacuation corridor, and the 3115 Road hazardous fuels reduction project, which treated approximately two miles of Jefferson County Public Works right-of-way and five acres of hazardous fuels. This work significantly reduced the potential for cross-boundary wildfire spread from public lands onto private property. These projects demonstrate the tangible public safety benefits of sustained investment in conservation corps programs. Heart of Oregon Corps provides an essential workforce capacity that rural fire districts and local governments cannot replicate with existing resources. Their work not only reduces wildfire risk but also strengthens interagency collaboration, supports workforce development, and enhances long-term community resilience. Continued legislative funding for Heart of Oregon Corps is a strategic and cost-effective investment in wildfire prevention, public safety, and rural community protection. Lake Chinook Fire and Rescue urges policymakers to maintain and expand support for this program to ensure that critical fuels reduction work can continue across high-risk landscapes in Oregon.

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,

Levi Horn
Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Specialist
Lake Chinook Fire and Rescue