

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: River Forest Acres Firewise Committee

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.

The OCC completed a thinning project for our neighborhood, a critical life-safety project, that we could not have done ourselves. Our little neighborhood has one exit road and our only backup is a two-track trail through National Forest and LaPine State Park, a 1.5 mile path. It was overgrown with brush and small trees which would have prevented efficient escape AND added to the wildfire fuel. The OCC did a commendable job of clearing and stacking about 100 cubic yards of brush away from the exit road, so that we volunteers could remove it over time. We simply don't have the labor or the funds to have done this ourselves, despite its critical nature. We are indebted to the OCC staff for such a great effort!

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,

Les Adams
Firewise Committee Chair
River Forest Acres, 97707