

VIKKI BREESE IVERSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | DISTRICT 59

CAPITOL OFFICE
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COMMITTEES:

HOUSING, VICE-CHAIR
JOINT WAYS AND MEANS
NATURAL RESOURCES SUB

April 2, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Re: Support for Senate Bill 83

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the committee,

Oregon has always faced the challenge of wildfires. Over history the severity of such wildfires has changed our landscape. In more recent history, the lack of managing Oregon forest lands coupled with fires encompassing thousands of acres in a single fire season, has left us secondary issues as the rains come and flooding ensues. These issues double the number of affected families left without homes, livestock, and other resources for which they depend upon for their livelihood.

Republicans put forth a bill this session to try and ease the domino effect which has put such pressure on rural Oregon as the previously adopted wildfire maps inflicted. Our constituents fill our inboxes and voicemail with tales of dropped insurance or massively increased premiums for homes erroneously considered in high hazard zones. I am pleased to see SB 83 mirrors our attempts to ease the burdens caused by the initiation of wildfire maps.

However, we must not forget the damage caused by the wildfire maps to real Oregonians and I would suggest trying to make them whole again. Many Oregonians living in rural areas naturally fire harden their homesteads because they are aware of the risks. I am pleased to see SB 83 roll back some of the most egregious additional pressures to these property owners and instead focuses on a voluntary and educational process.

There are many good things in SB 83 with the -7 amendment. It removes mandates for defensible space, eliminates mandate statewide home hardening requirements, restores a clear definition of "wildland urban interface" (WUI), protects rural property values, eliminates all final orders designating hazard designations issued by ODF in January, and last but not least eliminates the State Wildfire Hazard Map. **I support these changes and want to make clear that I support Senate Bill 83 with the -7 amendment.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vikki Breese Iverson".

Rep. Vikki Breese-Iverson