

2 April 2025

Testimony to Support SB 85 establishing a Neighborhood Protection Cooperative Grant Program and Fund: to support neighborhoods' effort to protect against wildfires

From Flavia Franco – Ashland, Oregon

I am in support of this measure because it establishes a grant program in that eligible recipients:

- Are at high risk for wildfires,
- Face identifiable social and economic barriers, and
- Are likely to succeed in implementing wildfire risk reduction measures.

In Ashland, there are neighborhoods that would meet that criteria and in 2023, I was part of a group that was trying to organize by neighborhood and meet on common ground issues of sustainability and resilience. Wildfire protection and disaster preparedness were two issues we covered in the first year.

If neighborhood efforts were more supported by local agencies, then more people would be persuaded to act to protect and maintain their homes to be at lower risk to damage from a fire.

We were forced to change insurers when our former insurer wanted at 40% increase in premiums year over year. It's important to every property owner to have as many people ^{as possible} in town following best practices.

Thanks.



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