



May 5, 2025

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Oregon Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE SB 83 Wildfire

Dear Chair Lively,
Vice-Chair Gamba,
Vice-Chair Levy
Committee Members,

My name is Bob Hart and I am a retired Land Use Consultant. I have submitted detailed testimony that is currently in the record and I urge you to review my letter. This additional testimony to this committee is to express my support of this amended bill and ask that you pass it. The Senate passed the legislation with a vote pf 29-0. Senator Golden, who sponsored the original bill as SB 762 and the bill SB 80 to fix the original bill, has concluded that the map does not work and should be removed from state law to include the mandates and other map references throughout the ORS.

The Wildfire Map and implementing mandates have proven to be detrimental to the residents of Oregon. The scale of the mapping and criteria used does not recognize the work done by property owners to reduce fire hazards. Unintended consequences of the Wildfire Program have included insurance cancellations and rate increases, loss of property sales and loss of property value to name but a few. While all these concerns may not be directly attributable to the Wildfire program, the timing of everything has caused the public to blame the State Wildfire Program. Additionally, the lack of management of Federal lands and the sheer size of fires on the federal lands has led the citizens to conclude that without government land changes, that the adopted Wildfire Program unfairly puts responsibility for wildfire on private property owners. Additionally, the State laws were said to be in response to the horrific fires of 2020. Nothing in the adopted laws would have prevented or even reduced the impacts of the Almeda Fire or the Santiam Fire.

I urge you to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Bob Hart, Planning Consultant
Rogue River, OR 97537