



Service Employees
International Union
Local 503

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To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503
RE: Support for SB 85 -1
Date: April 1, 2025

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, Members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Powers, and I represent SEIU Local 503, a labor union advocating for approximately 70,000 care providers, state employees, and other essential workers across every county in Oregon. We take pride in making Oregon work. I am writing to express our support for SB 85 -1.

Building community resilience is a priority for our members, who are increasingly impacted by extreme weather and devastating wildfires. This bill's wildfire risk mitigation efforts, evaluations, and recommendations are crucial steps in safeguarding our communities.

The property-specific and community-level actions outlined in SB 85 -1—particularly defensible space and home hardening—will benefit all Oregonians, including the thousands of workers we represent. We appreciate the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) for their roles in evaluating wildfire risk mitigation efforts. Collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is essential, and ongoing communication with the insurance industry will help ensure informed risk management.

As highlighted in other testimonies, we also urge the legislature to fund additional initiatives this session that strengthen community resilience against natural disasters. Support for agencies and organizations engaged in defensible space implementation, technical assistance, and funding is critical.

We respectfully urge the committee to support SB 85 -1.

Thank you for your consideration.