



To: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

From: Chief Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Chief Ben Stange
Polk County Fire District No. 1
Fire and EMS Chapter of SDAO

Date: April 23, 2025

Re: SB 49 A-Engrossed – Testimony in Support –
Building Codes Structure Board Membership Changes

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the **Oregon Fire Chiefs Association** and the **Fire and EMS Chapter of SDAO**, we express support for SB 49A. As amended from the original text, this bill now preserves the critical voice of fire protection agencies on the Building Codes Structures Board while adding a fire protection engineer and a specialized structural engineer.

SB 49A maintains a fire protection agency representative on the Board which is vital to the fire service community. This position provides a direct voice in the building code adoption process, allowing fire service officials to offer essential insights on fire and life safety issues. The fire service perspective is paramount in these discussions, as fire officials are uniquely positioned to understand the real-world implications of building codes on emergency response, fire prevention, and public safety.

SB 49A also adds a fire protection engineer and a structural engineer specializing in the design of residential buildings more than three-stories above grade. Much like the fire protection agency and other representatives on the Board, these representatives will provide critical expertise and input for the Board.

By adding positions and preserving the fire protection agency representative on the Building Codes Structures Board, SB 49A enhances the balanced and safety-focused approach to building codes in Oregon. We encourage the passage of SB 49A.

Thank you for your consideration!