



TINA KOTEK  
GOVERNOR

August 4, 2023

The Honorable Rob Wagner  
President of the Senate  
S-201 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Dan Rayfield  
Speaker of the House  
H-269 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 80

Dear President Wagner and Speaker Rayfield,

Today, I am signing Senate Bill 80 and I would like to thank you for your effort in continuing to advance fire protection in Oregon. Senate Bill 80 represented this year's omnibus bill on wildfire, and I offer the following for your consideration.

This new law makes several adjustments to the statewide wildfire hazard map that will help with the development and delivery of the next mapping iteration. Allowing more time to work with counties and engage Oregonians is a critical adjustment. The map's purpose, name, and land designations have all changed to better represent the purpose of the map. Notification to landowners will be in collaboration with the legislatively appointed Wildfire Programs Advisory Council, and the appeals process was made less complex for landowners. Even with these improvements, many Oregonians will continue to have concerns about the map as it represents a regulatory tool with a statewide approach to protecting communities from wildfire. To help mitigate some of these concerns, we will defer to a public education campaign on the benefits of defensible space and strategically consider the timing of defensible space enforcement.

Senate Bill 80 was the vehicle utilized to fund the Oregon State Fire Marshal's wildfire community risk reduction program at \$3 million. Last biennium, the Legislature invested \$32 million for this purpose in OSFM. A more durable and consistent funding strategy is necessary for Oregon to help protect our communities from wildfire.

Senate Bill 80 also created the Landscape Resiliency Fund and adjusted the existing Community Risk Reduction fund to allow for philanthropic donations for these purposes of reducing wildfire risk. The executive branch will continue to work towards attracting philanthropic dollars for this purpose.

Additionally, Senate Bill 80 expanded the granting opportunities to non-profits and faith-based organizations to deliver the public clean air services more efficiently during wildfire events. However, this program within the Oregon Department of Human Services was not funded in this bill or the agency budget bill House Bill 5026. I speak to this in detail, in my letter regarding House Bill 5026.

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Finally, Senate Bill 80 expanded the prescribed fire program in the Oregon Department of Forestry to include a prescribed fire liability pilot program. Liability issues have been identified as a limitation to meeting prescribed fire goals, and the executive branch looks forward to testing this concept.

The July 2023 wildfire programs director's report captures a comprehensive look at how we have progressed wildfire programs through targeted investments in Oregon. I would be happy to discuss the above details in Senate Bill 80 and more broadly, the bi-monthly wildfire programs director's report as we prepare for wildfire in Oregon's future.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Governor Tina Kotek

CC: Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-chair Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-chair Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Golden, Chair, Committee on Natural Resources  
Representative Marsh, Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Fairborz Pakseresht, Director, Oregon Department of Human Services  
Cal Makumoto, Oregon Department of Forestry  
Mariana Ruiz-Temple, Department of the State Fire Marshal