



REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE
GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

February 8, 2018

The Honorable Paul Evans, Chair
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
900 Court Street NE, H-281
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Evans, Vice-Chairs Boone and Esquivel, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness:

I write in support of House Bill 4152, which appropriates money for the sheriffs' offices of Multnomah County and Hood River County for expenses related to wildfire recovery, mitigation, and preparedness.

In response to damage by the Eagle Creek and Chetco Bar fires, Governor Brown created Wildfire Recovery Councils for each region. These councils, comprised of leaders from the public and private sector and staffed by Regional Solutions teams, provided the Governor and state agencies information on the impact of the fires and recommendations on how the state could support recovery.

The Eagle Creek council, which included local public safety officials, expressed significant concern about the fire-damaged terrain increasing the risks associated with search and rescue, as well as other public safety responsibilities. The council recommended that the state provide sheriffs' offices with training and equipment that would increase their capacity to ensure public safety in and around fire-affected areas, particularly damaged hiking trails.

We appreciate the leadership provided by Senator Thomsen and former Representative Johnson as co-chairs of the Eagle Creek council. The Governor's office concurs with the council's recommendation and encourages the committee to support HB 4152.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Lewis-Berry".

Jason Lewis-Berry
Regional Solutions Director
Jobs and Economy Policy Advisor