

FROM THE DESK OF

JEFF HELFRICH HDSZ



**Multnomah
County**



Support HB 4152A

The Eagle Creek Fire was a significant incident, spreading to 20,000 acres in a matter of hours and attracting national attention. During the wildfire Multnomah County Sheriff's members, volunteers and search/rescue teams were among the first responders on the scene, working tirelessly to manage the escalating situation. An Incident Command Team was established, deploying cross-jurisdictional efforts to manage the incident, keep our communities safe and minimize trauma that comes with emergencies, natural disasters and loss.

The Incident Command Team opened communication lines, closed trails, and issued evacuation orders. Working door-to-door, our network helped vulnerable residents and livestock reach safety and shelter. Based on new developments, we helped impacted individuals transition from shelter to temporary living arrangements and connect with wrap around services. From there, our teams shared information, monitored the fire, protected property and supported our communities until it was safe to return home.

As in any major emergency, resources and funding were prioritized to ensure the safety of Multnomah County residents. The effects of the Eagle Creek fire still impact the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office budget. This bill will bring valuable support to continued efforts that serve Multnomah and Hood River Counties. This is vital for our collective efforts to restore the Columbia River Gorge and to prepare and protect when the next disaster strikes.

Thank you for your support.