



CHRISTINE DRAZAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 39

February 11, 2021

Senator Ginny Burdick, Chair
Senator Brian Boquist, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon Capitol Building
900 Court St. NE. Rm. A
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Testimony in support, SB 464

Chair Burdick, Vice Chair Boquist and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

Today I write to you in support of Senate Bill 464.

The amount of devastation, pain, and suffering this past wildfire season has inflicted on Oregonians across the state is hard to fathom. As the damage has been assessed and the numbers have come in, one thing has become abundantly clear – government services *must* be nimble and responsive to the individual needs of those impacted.

SB 464 will give local officials an extra tool in their toolbelts to help meet individual needs. The bill would require tax collectors to prorate and cancel property taxes imposed on properties damaged or destroyed by the wildfires in September 2020 in counties that were included in Gov. Brown's state of emergency declaration, without requiring an application from the property owner.

Current law allows a property owner to apply for the proration of their property taxes if it has been damaged or destroyed by fire or an act of God, but there is currently no provision specific to property damage in geographic locations covered by a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency.

While property taxes are incredibly important, and counties rely on them to provide vital services, we are experiencing a historic time in which disaster victims are in dire need of relief. SB 464 is a citizen-focused effort that will alleviate the suffering of today's victims through achievable and administrable means.

Thank you for holding a hearing for this bill. I urge your support of SB 464.

Sincerely,

Christine Drazan
House Republican Leader
State Representative, House District 39