



**REPRESENTATIVE JACK ZIKA
HOUSE DISTRICT 53**

For Immediate Release

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Governor Signs Wildfire Protection Bill

SALEM, Ore. – HB 2222, a bill to improve wildfire protection, was signed into law by Governor Brown. The Wildfire Protection bill is intended to enforce a previous bill that would help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in Central Oregon and the rest of the state.

Representative Jack Zika issued the following statement:

"There is no greater natural disaster threat to Central Oregonians than wildfire. Emergency officials are already concerned about the number of incidents we're seeing this early in the fire season. The Wildfire Protection bill couldn't come soon enough to help reduce our risk of wildfire, safeguard our communities, and protect our homes."

The bill will require the Oregon Department of Forestry to report to the legislature regarding its implementation of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Act (the "Act"), which was signed into law in 1997. The Act was intended to provide property owners resources from the Oregon Department of Forestry and incentives to help eliminate brush and ladder fuels around homes, to better protect Oregon residents from catastrophic wildfire.

Zika is a chief sponsor of HB 2222 with the bipartisan support of co-chief sponsors Senator Betsy Johnson, Representative Cheri Helt, and Representative Daniel Bonham.

Jack Zika represents House District 53 which includes the communities of Redmond, Tumalo, Sunriver and portions of Bend and unincorporated Deschutes County and serves on the Oregon Human Services & Housing Committee, the Veterans & Emergency Preparedness Committee, and the Energy & Environment Committees.

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