



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

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House Majority Leader Bowman, Rep. Evans React to Close of Special Session to Provide Wildfire Response Funding

SALEM, Ore. — In a special session, the Oregon legislature provided the Oregon Department of Forestry and State Fire Marshal with the funding needed to pay state contractors who supported Oregon during the 2024 wildfire season.

“Following an unprecedented wildfire season, the legislature worked together to deliver needed funding for the people working to keep Oregonians’ families safe,” said **Majority Leader Ben Bowman (D-Tigard, Metzger, & S. Beaverton)**. “We have to approach this issue differently. As we continue to confront the climate crisis, we must reframe our thinking around wildfire prevention and emergency preparedness.”

In May of 2024, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal [convened a workgroup](#) including legislators Rep. John Lively and Rep. Bobby Levy. The group aims to discuss solutions for sustainable wildfire mitigation and suppression funding, and works closely with the Governor’s Wildfire Programs Advisory Council. Yesterday, the group [presented its findings](#) to the Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire, sharing that, “[We’re] in a good place at the right time to have the conversation about how we will address wildfires into our future for future generations.”

“Today, we made the right decision. We made sure the state paid its bill and kept its promises to veterans and frontline responders,” said **Rep. Paul Evans (D-Monmouth, Independence, West Salem and South Salem)**.

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