

PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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House Democrats Lead on Wildfire Relief Bills

HB 2341 will bring tax relief to property owners devastated by wildfire

SALEM, OR—Today, the Oregon House voted unanimously to approve <u>House Bill 2341</u>, which will bring critically needed tax relief to Oregonians whose property was destroyed in last year's devastating fires. The bill is one of several bills sponsored by House Democrats whose communities were greatly harmed in the disasters.

HB 2341 will give county assessors the ability to prorate taxes imposed on damaged properties and homes affected by the 2020 wildfires and future natural disasters.

The bipartisan bill, chief sponsored in the House by Reps. Pam Marsh (D-Southern Jackson County) and David Gomberg (D-Central Coast), forms part of House Democrats' legislative priorities to provide aid for Oregonians affected by the wildfires.

"Last year's wildfires were devastating and continue to impact families across the state," said Rep. Marsh. "With bipartisan support, HB 2341 provides some much-needed financial relief to home and business owners worried about paying their bills."

Under the current bill, assessors will be allowed to submit properties for proration, instead of requiring homeowners to do so. It will also ensure proration is tied to the property's market value.

"Right now, we understand our constituents need flexible and immediate support, especially those who lost their homes to the wildfires," said Rep. Gomberg. "This bill does exactly that, aiding citizens as they rebuild, without having to navigate excessive red tape, and instead, focusing on healing and moving forward."

HB 2341 is part of a series of bills the House hopes to pass, including <u>HB 3218</u>, <u>HB 2607</u>, and <u>HB 3272</u>, among others, that will support Oregonians most affected by last year's wildfires and future natural disasters.

Having passed the House, HB 2341 will move to the state Senate, where it is expected to pass with bipartisan support.