



*From the Office of Representatives Paul Evans, Dacia Grayber and Willy Chotzen*

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## **Senate Republicans Block HB 3954, Derail Wildfire Protections with Procedural Move**

**SALEM, OR.** – In a blow to Oregon’s wildfire preparedness and emergency response capabilities, Senate Republicans have blocked [House Bill 3954](#) using a procedural maneuver brought by **Sen. Bonham** and **Sen. Hayden**, preventing the bill from receiving a vote on the Senate floor.

In response to the growing threat of wildfires and the increasing politicization of National Guard deployments, Oregon lawmakers introduced HB 3954 to protect the state’s ability to respond effectively to disasters. The bill, carried by **Representative Paul Evans (D-Monmouth)**, would have reinforced state oversight of the Oregon National Guard and established enforceable limits on federal mobilization during critical in-state emergencies.

“It’s clear this president doesn’t know -- or won’t -- follow federal law. We have to put this into federal statutes to make him follow the law in Oregon,” said **Rep. Evans**. “I’ve been in enough disaster zones to know what happens when everyone’s running around with no plan. It’s a damn mess. If we don’t get our act together now with someone actually in charge, we’ll be digging ourselves out with a spoon when the next wildfire hits us.”

**Rep. Dacia Grayber (D-SW Portland)**, a firefighter and public safety advocate, voiced deep frustration: “Oregonians rely on the National Guard when disaster strikes—whether it’s a wildfire, a flood, or an earthquake. We brought forward a common-sense solution, and Senate Republicans chose politics over public safety.”

“This bill was about protecting Oregonians and asserting our right to control the emergency resources we depend on,” added **Rep. Chotzen (D-SE Portland)**. “We can’t afford to lose life-saving support to politically-motivated federal mobilizations. I’m disappointed to see Senate Republicans use their platform to enable President Trump instead of protecting Oregonians.”

HB 3954 was introduced as a direct response to increasing federal overreach, including the controversial deployment of Guard units to cities such as Los Angeles. Lawmakers and emergency managers warned that such mobilizations risk eroding state sovereignty and leaving Oregon vulnerable during peak fire season.

Despite passing the House with support from public safety leaders, frontline firefighters, current & retired National Guard personnel, the bill was ultimately blocked in the Senate Rules committee through a procedural maneuver before it could receive a vote.

“This is a dangerous precedent,” said **Rep. Evans**. “Oregonians deserve a government that shows up in times of need. The fight to keep our Guard at home is not over.”

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