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LEADER DRAZAN CALLS FOR DEDICATED WILDFIRE FUND

SALEM, Ore. – House Republican Leader Christine Drazan called to establish a dedicated Wildfire Emergency Fund to ensure sustainable funding for Oregon's critical firefighting operations:

"The unprecedented scale and intensity of recent wildfires have made it clear that Oregon requires a more robust and reliable funding mechanism to protect our communities and support our firefighters. Today, I am calling for the establishment of a dedicated Wildfire Emergency Fund that will draw from existing revenue streams to ensure we meet our fundamental obligations to public safety.

"This fund would serve as a dedicated resource to support rapid deployment of firefighting resources, ensure timely compensation for our firefighters, and maintain Oregon's emergency response readiness. The incoming Trump administration presents an opportunity to forge new partnerships and create innovative solutions for managing our forest lands. By working proactively with federal partners, we can stop wildfires before they impact air quality, endanger communities, cross jurisdictional boundaries and become megafires.

"This is not merely about addressing immediate challenges – it is about building a sustainable framework for the future of Oregon's forest management and emergency response capabilities. We have an obligation to provide our firefighters with the institutional support and resources they need to protect our communities effectively. I look forward to working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to establish this vital funding mechanism. The safety of our communities and the effectiveness of our emergency response system must transcend partisan considerations.

"This is an opportunity to demonstrate that Oregon can still think big and take decisive action to protect its citizens and natural resources. We don't have to accept the status

quo when it isn't working for anybody. Nobody should be left with thousands of dollars in unpaid bills because government refuses to get it's act together."

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