

SB 5801 Vote Explanation.

I voted NO for the following reasons:

First, the supposed need for this legislative fix illustrates a larger issue with a broken administrative system that cannot be fixed by paying money without rigorous accounting or precise documentation for the fiscal outlays.

Second, I recognize Oregon's need to meet any true financial obligations which are due to all contractors who answered the call and performed specific services.

However, the larger point is the State Treasury and State Forestry Department did not properly manage or account for cash flows needed for forest fires or grassland fires which each have entirely different firefighting expenditure models. Providing the legislature with only hundreds of million-dollar summaries tagged with overall acres burned does nothing to help the Senate determine the appropriateness of these financial demands.

I'll note that Sen. Boquist raises the point that with \$98 billion in alleged state investments, and \$34 billion in short term operational funds, it is inconceivable that the state could not cashflow the \$200 million needed for fire funds.

This brings me back to the main point: Why all of this "special session" concern for what should be Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for an organization of our state's size and population given the vast financial resources under state control?

A true indicator of fiscal responsibility is when a state operates within its means, supported by effective procedures to manage annual expenditures and unforeseen challenges without resorting to political grandstanding. Sadly, Oregon is far from this standard. Every category of debt in Oregon is increasing at a pace that outstrips the modest growth of its wealth-generating activities—whether from local entrepreneurs, small- and mid-sized businesses, or even our global enterprise partners.

I was a NO vote because instead of addressing the root causes, this legislature's response has been to pour more money into the hole, reinforcing the problem while failing to tackle the administrative mismanagement that continues to afflict Oregon's executive offices.

Sincerely,

Sen. Dennis Linthicum  
Oregon Senate - District 28  
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