



**OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

6/24/2025

Timothy G. Sekerak Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on SB 83-A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I am respectfully voting No on SB 83-A. I have voted in opposition, but let me be clear, I did not urge anyone else to vote no.

But allow me for a minute to be a bit of a Cassandra. Cassandra was a Trojan in Greek mythology who was fated to utter prophecies of impending disasters but never to be believed.

We must understand and believe that fire seasons are getting increasingly hot, dry, and disastrous. This year alone, we've already had the earliest, most damaging fire season on record, with more homes lost in the Rowena fire alone than every building in the last season.

SB 762, including those maps, was that blueprint to create a bulwark against disaster. It was difficult work, hard work and work that we asked our State fire professionals to do -with bravery and difficulty- in our communities for the past 4 years. Part of SB 762 was to prohibit insurance companies from using those maps to raise rates.

The incredibly sad and frustrating reality is that the existing insurance maps (often based on federal maps) are far more specific and restrictive, and SB 83-A will not change the insurance issues people are facing. It will not lower insurance rates, nor prevent insurance cancellation. The maps of SB 762 became a political scapegoat. As the lone line firefighter in this legislature, I also know that repealing these maps means that your firefighters will not have them to pre-plan, to guide response, or to use for mitigation in the off-season.



We are facing historic and unthinkable dangerous wildfire conditions in the years ahead. And because I don't want to just be a "no" without taking an opportunity to educate, should someone read this vote explanation, please let me offer the following for consideration.

In lieu of mandatory building codes and defensible space regulations, it's even more imperative that we create defensible space and harden our homes.


Clear brush from your home, to the best of your abilities. That lovely juniper tree under your eaves serves as a torch if ignited.

Remove potential ignitions sources. Having a cord of firewood under your porch might make great sense in winter, but the reality is that with blowing embers, in the event of a wildfire, that's often a home that your firefighters can't save.

Know your evacuation route. Have a go bag. Ensure that you have done everything in your power to keep you, your family, and your community safe.

Your state's firefighters will always work to the very best of our ability to serve and protect, at great cost, including giving our lives. This is a tragic reality, but an oath to service we take with pride. The vote taken today in my humble opinion sets us back on the path to resilience and safety, but it also serves as a clarion call. We must rise to the challenges ahead of us with our increasing, potentially catastrophic wildfires.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dacia Grayber', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

State Representative Dacia Grayber