



OREGON SENATE

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Oregon Senate Democrats Call on Federal Administration to Reinstatement Fire Prevention Workers

Recent actions by the U.S. Department of Agriculture endanger Oregon communities

SALEM, OR – Oregon Senate Democrats today issued a letter calling on the federal government to bring back recently dismissed fire-prevention workers and stabilize the operations of the U.S. Forest Service. A flurry of sudden and disorganized federal layoffs left important services on hold and put future fire safety at risk.

“We need Forest Service trail workers back on the job, thinning trees and removing combustible material, so we can save lives and property,” said **Oregon Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – NE Portland)**. “It’s not clear whether the personnel firings were legal to begin with. For the safety of Oregon communities, these employees should continue their work while the courts review the matter.”

Wildfire prevention is year-round work: planning operations, mitigating hazardous conditions, and deploying people and equipment to be ready at any time. Interrupting those efforts undermines Oregon’s progress toward health, safety, and prosperity for all.

“Confronting the crisis of wildfires will be successful only when we all work together,” Leader Jama wrote in the letter. “We need government bodies—local, state, tribal and federal—working with each other and with private sector partners, over rural and urban areas, and across all political lines.”

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