



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Wildfire Prevention Gets Funding Boost in Legislation Passed by Senate Democrats Today

House Bill 3940 tackles two public health threats with one vote

SALEM, OR – Investing in wildfire prevention saves lives and keeps fire-fighting costs lower. That's why Oregon Senate Democrats voted today for ongoing funding dedicated to local risk reduction, wildfire preparedness, and landscape resilience.

House Bill 3940 supports these activities with a modest tax on newly popular synthetic nicotine "pouch" products. Such charges can deter use of this unhealthy and addictive substance, which up to now—unlike traditional tobacco products—have been entirely untaxed in Oregon.

"Wildfire smoke and nicotine pouches both affect public health. Today's legislation is a smart way to bring down both risks and keep Oregonians safe and healthy," said **Senator Anthony Broadman (D – Bend)**.

Funding under HB 3940 will be dedicated to Oregon's Landscape Resiliency Fund and Community Risk Reduction Fund.

"This bill gets us back to the business of preventing and reducing the intensity of wildfires so that we don't have to fight more and more of them every year. It also lets us go home knowing that our world-class fire professionals will have what they need for the 2025 wildfire season," said **Senator Jeff Golden (D – Ashland)**, chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Adding a caution, he noted, "Beyond that is less clear, because the tough challenge of building the stable, adequate foundation to fund these programs still lies ahead of us."

Four Republicans joined Senate Democrats in supporting HB 3940. It passed the Senate in a vote of 20 to 8 and now goes to Governor Tina Kotek for her signature.

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