



# Oregon Senate Republicans

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## **Senate Republican Leader on Wildfire Damage Assistance for Santiam Canyon Schools**

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Legislature’s Emergency Board allocated \$20 million from emergency funds for financial assistance to support school districts, education service districts, and public charter schools in mitigating the costs of damages caused by wildfire.

“I am proud that funds have been allocated to provide assistance to the schools that have been impacted by the wildfires in Oregon,” said Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod (R-Lyons). “Many students and families in my district lost everything and look to schools as a safe space.”

Santiam Canyon, Phoenix/Talent, and McKenzie School Districts need damage assistance after the wildfires. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) identified 33 school districts, three education service districts, and one public charter school that could have damage resulting from wildfire and smoke. The districts will need to send ODE an estimation of funds needed.

Senator Girod continued, “When these schools are cleaned of smoke and safety hazards, the schools and their educators provide more than education; they are safe spaces for students who experienced trauma during the fires. These school districts lacked insurance coverage to tackle wildfire and smoke damage, and the \$20 million available for financial assistance will help reopen their doors.”

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