

Dear Public,

For those of you who believe the Dobbins/Oregon House Fire Protection District is not interested in solving the numerous fire-risk issues in our community:

### **1. Role and Responsibilities of the District as a part of County Government**

The District was formed to and is responsible to create our Fire Department and to provision and provide administrative oversight for that Fire Department. The District has little or no role in County planning, infrastructure, and emergency services. The Fire Department (that the District administers) does have a role but it is generally responsive and in the form of advice or technical information when a County agency requests such.

For community issues regarding evacuation routes, brush clearing, roads, ordinances, these are the purview of County agencies such as Office of Emergency Services (OES), Planning, Public Works, and your County Supervisor.

The “Fire Protection District’s” sole official role is to make sure our Fire Department has the equipment and staff to respond to local fires and medical emergencies.

### **2. The Name Is Misleading**

“Fire Protection” in the sense of “Fire Protection District” has a more traditional meaning in that “fire protection” used to be all about having a Fire Department. And that is what the Fire Protection District is about: Your Fire Department.

In current times, we, as a community, have come to understand that “fire protection” is a lot more than whether a fire engine will show up when you need one. Now we look at wildland fires and clearing vegetation, preparing structures, reviewing and improving evacuation routes, and the broader state-wide readiness (think aerial tankers) to provide “fire protection”.

But the name is still “Fire Protection District” even though the scope of what we are intended to do and what we are equipped to do is limited to building and maintaining the best, most well equipped and staffed, Fire Department possible.

### **3. Financial Position, Staff Status**

We are a volunteer organization. Your District Directors and Clerk are 100% volunteer. We do pay a bookkeeper (we couldn’t find anyone competent to commit as a volunteer). The Fire Department’s Chief and all the firefighters and medical personnel are all volunteers. I can personally vouch that all of our staff care deeply, take the safety of our community very seriously, are well trained, and have the skill and experience to provide a high level of service unique to a community like ours.

Unlike a few of our nearby fellow Fire Protection Districts, we carry no debt and no public bonds; We raise money first and then buy the (very) expensive equipment that the Fire Department needs. One of the reasons we can do this is we are all-volunteer; we do not have a large payroll draining a large part of our resources.

### **4. Bottom Line: What We Can and Cannot Do**

We **CAN** build and maintain your Fire Department

We **CANNOT** designate evacuation routes (talk to Office of Emergency Services (OES))

We **CANNOT** mandate clearing or updating roads (talk to Planning and Public Works)

We **CANNOT** tell the County what to do (talk to your Supervisor)

You can see that your Fire Protection District is limited in what we CAN do. It is not that we are not interested, it is about the tools and limited resources that we have and the role we play in our County Government.

Sincerely,

Peter Pillsbury

Clerk of the Board, DOHFPD,

*for your Board of Directors, Dobbins / Oregon House Fire Protection District:*

**Greg Holman**

**Justin DeVorss**

**Bart Young**

**Charles Sharp**

**Peter Pillsbury**