

## Molalla Rural Fire Protection District #73

May 18, 2022



City of Molalla PO Box 248 117 N Molalla Ave Molalla, OR 97038

RE: Re-Designation and Expansion of Molalla Enterprise Zone

Molalla Fire District has great concerns over the Re-Designation and Expansion of the Enterprise Zone. The record inflation rate and fuel costs are at all-time highs and the Fire District is very concerned about any possible loss of revenue.

Enterprise Zones normally last 3 to 5 years but in Molalla Enterprise Zone, a business can apply for additional Enterprise Zone tax exemption throughout the life of the Enterprise Zone.

Due to lost revenue, any extensions past the 3 years to a business could prove to be detrimental to the Molalla Fire District with reduction of staffing levels available for emergency apparatus to meet the demands of the continued increase in emergency call volume. Along with the reduced revenue, the actual cost of fire suppression, training expenses and call response will continue to fall on the citizens and businesses outside of the Enterprise Zone in which this area retains fire services at no cost.

In addition to the Enterprise Zone, The Fire District currently sees a loss of over \$35,000.00 annually from Molalla Urban Renewal District. At this time, the Urban Renewal District does make the Fire District whole. Monies from the Urban Renewal District can only be used for capital projects, not to hire paramedics or general expenses. The Fire District Board would like to work with the Urban Renewal District for an easy and seamless way towards the Fire District being made whole every year.

The Molalla Fire District Board of Directors understands the value of bringing business and jobs to Molalla and would like to work closely with the Urban Renewal District and the City of Molalla to ensure the best possible coverage to the structures and people in all areas of the city and the Fire District of Molalla at a fair and reasonable expense to our citizens and businesses.

Mike Towner, Fire Board President

Todd Gary, Fire Board Vice President



