



La Pine Rural Fire Protection District

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December 9, 2021

Commissioner Anthony DeBone
1300 NW Wall Street, Suite 200
Bend, Oregon 97701

Commissioner Patti Adair
1300 NW Wall Street, Suite 200
Bend, Oregon 97701

Commissioner Phil Chang
1300 NW Wall Street, Suite 200
Bend, Oregon 97701

Dear Commissioners:

The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District Board is requesting your consideration for a public safety policy action creating a permanent personal fireworks retail sale and use ban within Deschutes County.

Each year, around the 4th of July for a 10-day period, and during hottest and driest time of year, Oregon State law allows the sale and personal use of fireworks - unless a local general government ban such. In an average year 1,079 fires, 4.9 million in property loss, 37 serious injuries, and 1 death are caused by fireworks in Oregon. 911 Centers and law enforcement receive thousands of complaints. In 2017, a 47,000-acre forest fire was started in the Columbia Gorge. This year, Portland saw two fire deaths from an apartment fire caused by fireworks.

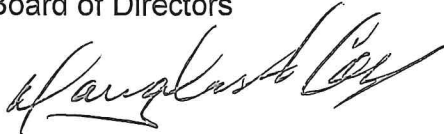
By statute, the State, Office of State Fire Marshal, and local Fire Districts are specifically prohibited from banning the sale or use of fireworks due to the past successes of special interest lobbies. Such public safety decisions to protect communities are now left only to County and City local governments. Several communities – Ashland, Medford, Sisters, Sunriver, and now Bend - have permanently banned the sales and/or use of personal fireworks in their communities. Fireworks are also banned on all state and federal public lands.

This past year most Oregon Counties and Cities - including Deschutes, and all incorporated cities, enacted personal use fireworks bans. This was extremely successful for public safety with over an 80% reduction in firework related calls even though the bans were of short notice and sales were not limited at all. Public reaction was overwhelmingly positive and one of relief.

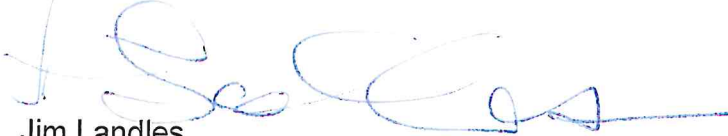
The fire district board wants to be clear in its support of community wide celebrations that may include fireworks that are professionally managed by pyro technicians, who are bonded, insured and follow the national safety standards.

Please consider this public safety request and take action in the best interest of our community.

Sincerely,
La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Cox".

Doug Cox
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Landles".

Jim Landles
Secretary