



## Senator Fred Girod

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### **Bill for rural Aurora fire station passes State Senate**

**Salem** – Senate Bill 640, which would empower the Aurora Rural Fire Protection District to build a central fire station and training facility, passed the Oregon State Senate on a unanimous vote Tuesday morning. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

“This bill is crucial to the safety of Oregonians in rural Marion County,” said Senator Fred Girod (R-Lyons), who had the bill drafted and championed its passage on the Senate floor Tuesday. “Passing this bill brings us a step closer to building this fire station and protecting the homes and livelihoods of Oregonians.”

The Fire Protection District wants to build a new station and training facility on land that has been zoned as exclusive farm use land east of the I-5 exit in Donald, Oregon. Current law allows for the construction of a fire facility on exclusive farm use land, but not for the partitioning of parcels of land. Senate Bill 640 would authorize the division of land that is exclusive farm use to create a 10 acre parcel for the fire facility. Without the bill, the Fire Protection District would be forced to purchase an entire 59 acre farm.

“One-size-fits-all land use laws create little flexibility for local community needs, like the need for this fire station,” said Girod. “Putting some common sense back into Oregon land use law will save the fire district money and expedite the construction of this facility.”

Fred Girod is a dentist and small business owner. He has served in the Oregon State Senate since 2008, where he has been a passionate voice for rural Oregon, taxpayers and natural resource based small businesses. Girod believes that government should do more with less, and has worked hard to make sure Oregon families have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

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