

## RESOLUTION 2-05 SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT

WHEREAS, the number and severity of catastrophic events such as wildfire and windstorm causing severe resource damage on forest and rangelands has increased in recent decades, causing serious adverse environmental, social and economic consequences to both national and local interests; and

WHEREAS, catastrophic events devastate ecosystems, severely compromising their capacity to recover, delaying reestablishment of appropriate forest and plant cover, increasing the susceptibility of the lands to repeated wildfires and invasions of noxious plant species, increasing the frequency and severity of insect infestations and disease outbreaks on adjacent public and private lands, and causing increased erosion and degradation of riparian plant and wildlife habitats and water quality for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, authorities currently available to the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to respond to catastrophic events on lands under their jurisdictions do not provide for timely and effective response activities, with currently required review processes frequently resulting in delays beyond the window of opportunity available for effective recovery plan implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act ("FERRA") would provide authority for timely and effective responses to catastrophic events, allowing the land management agencies to rapidly respond to the unique characteristics of each event and the particular needs of each locale, allowing for the use of damaged trees and other resources before they lose all economic value, while restoring ecosystems to a naturally functioning state; and

WHEREAS, expedited procedures under FERRA would be limited to catastrophic events over 1,000 acres, providing for prompt evaluation of damage and risk assessments for federal and adjacent non-federal lands, interdisciplinary scientific review, public notice and full participation in the development of recovery plans, and access to speedy appeals and litigation if there are disagreements; and

### 2005 OFFICERS

#### *President*

Carlos Reichenshammer  
Reichenshammer Bldg & Dsgn  
342 Lithia Way  
Ashland, OR 97520  
(541) 482-1212  
carreich@aol.com

#### *Vice President*

Drake Butsch  
First American Title Ins Co.  
1700 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. #102  
Portland, OR 97201  
(503) 795-7666  
dbutsch@firstam.com

#### *Treasurer*

Jim Patrick  
Dolphin Construction  
PO Box 332  
Newport, OR 97365  
(541) 265-6275  
jbpatrick@newportnet.com

#### *Secretary*

Mike Gansen  
Gansen Construction  
362 Hwy 99 N, Ste 2  
Eugene, OR 97402  
(541) 463-1000  
mjgansen@dlcomputing.net

#### *Associate Vice President*

Tim Sinniger  
Central Oregon Building Supply  
PO Box 62  
Bend, OR 97709  
(541) 388-4843  
tsinniger@aol.com

#### *NAHB State Representative*

Barry Larson  
Canterbury Construction Co.  
PO Box 860  
Clackamas, OR 97017  
(503) 659-0004  
brookslarson@comcast.com

#### *Area 15 Vice President*

Dale DeHarpport  
Four D Construction Inc.  
PO Box 1577  
Beaverton, OR 97075  
(503) 590-0805  
deharpport@msn.com

#### *Immediate Past President*

Ernie Platt  
Ernest Platt & Assoc., LLC  
15555 SW Bangy Rd., #301  
(503) 603-4515  
ernieplatt@hbapdx.org

#### *Chief Executive Officer*

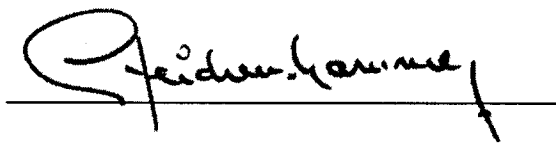
Jon Chandler  
375 Taylor St., NE  
Salem, OR 97303  
(503) 378-9066 ext 3  
jchandler@oregonhba.com



WHEREAS, increased scientific research on the means and methods for best recovering ecosystems damaged by catastrophic events is needed, and FERRA provides for such research, including monitoring of restoration projects, partnerships with colleges and universities, and increased emphasis on implementing the results of such research in the formulation of response plans; and

WHEREAS, FERRA provides for involvement of state, local and tribal authorities in evaluating damage from catastrophic events and formulating appropriate response plans, thereby insuring that the interests of local communities and adjacent landowners are heard and considered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Oregon Home Builders Association supports prompt passage of the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, with its commitment to timely responses to catastrophic events on federal lands, allowing for rapid restoration of ecosystems, usage of damaged trees before they lose all economic value, protection of adjacent lands from subsequent wildfires, insect infestations and disease outbreaks, and full public notice and participation, including involvement by state, local and tribal authorities in recovery planning and implementation.



Carlos Reichenshammer, President  
Oregon Home Builders Association

**2005 OFFICERS**

**President**

Carlos Reichenshammer  
Reichenshammer Bldg & Dsgn  
342 Lithia Way  
Ashland, OR 97520  
(541) 482-1212  
carreich@aol.com

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Drake Butsch  
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1700 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. #102  
Portland, OR 97201  
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15555 SW Bangy Rd., #301  
(503) 603-4515  
erniep@hbapdx.org

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