Lake Wenatchee board of Fire Commissioners Bill Gibbs, Mike Payne, and Mick Lamar unanimously joined their voices with the Lake Wenatchee Volunteer Firefighters Association and the Fire Auxiliary members to endorse ballot measure Proposition 1. Authorizing the sale of bonds to build essential facilities and address the insurance crisis in our community. Expanding and replacing buildings built as long as 50 years ago to ensure continued service across all of the fire district provides the best cost benefit and service benefit to local businesses and residents.

Fire boards and residents before us have over the last 50 years funded and built facilities that have served us until today. Old structures require adequate investment. Increased growth and insurance risks also require us all as a community to meet new obligations in order to offset the rising costs and cancellations sweeping our area.

Current operational funding is kept low at about 60% of the rate found in larger cities. This funding though does not address long term capital needs such as buildings. Over the last 8 years the board has worked hard to obtain grant funding, purchase property, and develop detailed plans. In our evaluation of a path forward, waiting any longer will simply mean costs will be higher, for construction, for insurance, for keeping our existing stations open. The authorization to pay for bonds is spread over 20 years to make sure no one generation feels the brunt of the financial responsibility and unlike most taxes this money stays entirely in this community

The board urges voters to support, shorter response times, better service, improved facilities, and to do our part not just for today, but for the next generation.