



February 8, 2021

Representative Brian Clem, Chair  
House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery

The Oregon Home Builders Association represents over 3,000 members to provide quality, safe and durable housing across Oregon. Access to available and affordable housing is at the heart of our organizational mission. Our member associations in Southern Oregon, Lane, Marion, Linn, Lincoln and Clackamas county have been engaged at many levels in their local communities to aid the rebuilding process consistent with our principles and mission.

Our board believes that those persons impacted by the fires should be able to rebuild in an efficient and timely manner and that we reduce or streamline processes that could hamper the rebuild process.

We want to thank Representative Gomberg for bringing this common-sense legislation forward. We don't believe citizens impacted by the fires should be subjected to construction taxes simply because they are trying to rebuild and return to their communities. Construction taxes are designed to impact new construction and we think rebuilding after a wildfire is a different and unique situation. Many communities have taken this same approach and our members appreciate the efforts of so many local leaders identifying and reducing unintentional barriers embedded in existing law that can discourage or delay the rebuilding process.

HB2607 will create a consistent policy, reduce confusion and avoid unnecessary cost for Oregonians just trying to get back to where they were before the fires.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure and we encourage your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Long".

Mark Long, OHBA