

Testimony for HB 3523

Over 70 years accumulating a lifetime of possessions, and they were removed from my life by the Archie Creek Fire in less than a half hour. Pacific Power's failure to heed the multiple warnings due to weather was the culprit. Only 20 minutes notice then driving through a 150 foot wall of flames – it's burned into my brain.

It was a gut wrenching experience waiting 4 days to finally learn that everything I owned was gone, along with everything else on our mountain. Gone! Our home, our land, our neighborhood, as well as miles of the beautiful North Umpqua watershed. Never to be seen in all its glory again in **my** lifetime.

As the story unfolded and we all learned more about the role Pacific Power played in this dreadful tragedy, my anguish was replaced by anger. They had suddenly become the boogie-man in the night. As more and more details of their deeds came to light, I learned that the insensitive behemoth of a business giant had consumed everything I held sacred. What I saw was that they were too interested in making another dollar to listen to the weather man, to employ safe practices with re-energizing the lines, to show any sorrow for the damage they had caused.

Now on top of everything else, we have learned that should we get some recompense from Pacific Power, between lawyer's fees, state taxes, federal taxes we may actually see as little as 20% of the monetary payout. The lawyers spoke of a huge sum. But we finally realized that after everybody else gets their hands on the money, all that will be left is a token amount.

Have we not suffered enough? Does no one feel the slightest sympathy? We've lost everything! EVERYTHING! I still cry at the sudden memory of a possession I have no more.

That is why I am requesting the Oregon legislature to show some sympathy, some compassion. I am asking that you vote yes on HB3523. Undo one tiny portion of the damage unleashed upon us by Pacific Power. Help us as we struggle to get on with a life in a totally not normal world. Those of us destroyed by the Archie Creek Fire will never find the happiness we knew pre-fire. We can hope for some compassion.