

Submitter: Richard Covell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1520

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a victim of the Paradise CA Fire that burned down the town on 8 Nov 2018. I lost everything I owned, except 3 classic cars, which I had in a storage unit, because the fire didnt go thru th concrete and metal, and what I had in the cab of my Semi. I lost everything from my childhood, and literally from my life, as did my Parents, Daughter, and Granddaughter. We received some Insurance money, AND, FINALLY, some money from the Power Co, that was the cause of the fire. The money was to make us WHOLE, not as income. They have in no way made us whole, as they to find every excuse to not pay us very much. I received a Determination Letter from the lawsuit to award me 101K for the power companies negligence that took most of my life away. I lost my Mother less that a year after the fire, due to complications of the fire. So, they gave us 60% of the awarded amount, less Attorney fees, and a lot of ETC, ETC's. I received app. 40K, and we dont know if we will get any more money. So, now we have to pay State and Federal Income taxes on the little money we received to try and make us whole. This should NOT be considered income. We have been trying to put our lives together after this Life Changing Disaster, and they want us to pay income tax on it. This is Wrong! Please give us a break on taxes, as the State of CA has on their people still living there. They did away with income tax on Disasters. I moved to Oregon after the fire, and this is where I am going to stay. I love it here in Ontario, and I am now retired, and trying to move on with my life. PLEASE, support this bill, and don't make us pay taxes on this money. Us victims need a break somewhere down the line. I hope and pray they will do the right thing. Thank-you  
Richard J Covell Ontario Oregon