

Submitter: Patricia Lee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB4007

I am writing in support of HB 4007 and encourage the committee to also do so.

I am thankful that no community lives were lost in the Archie Creek Fires but for those of us who lost EVERYTHING else the mental and physical toll will be felt for the remainder our years. Insurance proceeds have allowed some to pay off mortgages and debt, others have been able to buy or rebuild, but many are left with little or nothing and have been relying on the settlement proceeds to allow them to move forward in life. Allowing the recipients to retain some of the settlement in income tax savings will make a huge difference in their lives. This is money that will stay in the local community, and filter through to the local and state economy.

No amount of money can replace family treasures, our beloved forestland, hand-built homes and gardens, and workshops, but it can ease the burden for all.

There are days I feel as though the bulk of my life has been erased. Until you have experienced the depth of loss the fires have dealt to so many across the state you will never be able to grasp the long-term effects. Passage of HB 4007 is one small step in aiding the citizens in the fire communities of Oregon move forward with their lives.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patricia Lee