

Submitter: Karen Ellis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB4007

Our entire family experienced a traumatic life-altering loss during the 2020 Labor Day wildfires. My husband and I were living in our log home, our son along with his wife and 2 young children were living in another home nearby. Our other two sons had living situations on the property as well. All on a pristine forested property in the North Umpqua River Valley. On the day of the Archie Creek Fire, we had only 5 minutes notice to evacuate and even then we had to drive through fire and smoke to get to the highway and safety. A few days later, we learned the EVERYTHING had totally burned in the wildfire storm that reached over 2000 degrees. We later returned to see only rubble and dead trees. The recent lawsuit settlement is very much appreciated and it will certainly help us rebuild our lives, however, the amount of the settlement was definitely a compromise compared to what it could have been if the case went to trial. Also, it did not take into account the emotional distress or punitive damages -- only support for material losses.

That said, to be taxed on the modest amount we received seems to be unjustified and would greatly diminish the amount we would have to begin to rebuild our lives. Please support this bill to excuse fire victims from needing to pay tax on any settlement funds received from wildfire litigation.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration on this important matter!