

County Commissioners
Kevin Cameron, Chair
Danielle Bethell
Colm Willis



Chief Administrative
Officer
Jan Fritz

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 21, 2024

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair
Representative E. Werner Reschke, Vice-Chair
Representative Jules Walters, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee

Subject: Marion County Supports HB 4007

Dear Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes to express our full support for House Bill 4007, which provides tax exemptions for survivors of wildfires. This crucial legislation will alleviate the financial burden faced by individuals and businesses affected by wildfires, allowing them to recover and rebuild their lives without the additional strain of taxation on settlements related to their wildfire losses.

HB 4007 proposes to exempt legal settlements from state income taxes for wildfires occurring after January 1, 2020, that were declared state and federal emergencies. This exemption is a vital step towards providing relief to wildfire survivors who have endured immense losses and hardships. By easing the tax burden on settlements, survivors will have greater resources available to rebuild their homes, businesses, and communities.

The devastating impact of the 2020 Labor Day fires has left many individuals and families grappling with immense financial and emotional challenges. Survivors have faced not only the loss of property but also the daunting prospect of navigating complex legal processes to seek compensation for their losses. HB 4007 recognizes the hardships faced by wildfire survivors and offers a compassionate response to their needs.

Moreover, this legislation aligns with Oregon's commitment to supporting communities affected by natural disasters and fostering resilience in the face of adversity. By providing tax relief to wildfire survivors, we demonstrate our solidarity with those who have experienced loss and reaffirm our commitment to helping them recover and rebuild.

We urge you to support House Bill 4007 and ensure its swift passage into law. By enacting this legislation, Oregon can take a significant step towards assisting wildfire survivors on their path to recovery and renewal.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Kevin Cameron Danielle Bethell Colm Willis
Chair Commissioner Commissioner