

County Commissioners  
Kevin Cameron, Chair  
Danielle Bethell  
Colm Willis



Chief Administrative  
Officer  
Jan Fritz

## MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 21, 2024

Senator Mark Meek, Chair  
Senator Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee

**Subject: Marion County Supports SB 1520**

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes to express our full support for Senate Bill 1520, 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.

SB 1520 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. SB 1520 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 Senate Bill 1520 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,

Handwritten signature of Kevin Cameron in blue ink.

Kevin Cameron  
Chair

Handwritten signature of Danielle Bethell in blue ink.

Danielle Bethell  
Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Colm Willis in blue ink.

Colm Willis  
Commissioner