

Submitter: Kristin Monahan  
On Behalf Of: Long-Term Recovery Groups  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure: SB1520

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Boquist, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1520.

My name is Kristin Monahan, and for the past several years, I have worked with dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals impacted by - and involved in the recovery from - Oregon wildfires.

This has included working with culturally-specific organizations helping to reach marginalized frontline community members to organizations focused on forward-thinking models for community resilience. We also work with many of Oregon's Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs), many of which provide robust case management services to disaster survivors. LTRGs and so many of the nonprofits and community-based organizations in fire-impacted communities are a lifeline for those who have lost everything - connecting survivors to housing, mental health services, all while coordinating public, private and philanthropic resources to rebuild communities - socially and economically.

In 2020, Oregon experienced one of the worst wildfire seasons in recent history. Thousands of Oregonians were displaced, leaving with just the clothes on their back, and many lost every possession they owned. In one community alone, nearly 1,000 mobile homes were demolished. I have seen, firsthand, the incredible negative impact disasters have on so many aspects of peoples' lives as well as the disproportionate impact disasters, and Oregon's wildfires, have had and do have on individuals from lower-income households, elderly and senior populations, farmworkers, and many others from marginalized or vulnerable communities.

SB 1520 would allow for judgments received following civil wildfire litigation to be deducted from taxable income. Such a deduction would allow survivors of wildfires and other natural disasters to be able to use these funds to rebuild their homes, lives, and communities. Allowing such funds to be deducted will bolster Oregon's ability to support survivors in their time of significant, complex and overwhelming need.

We urge your strong support of SB 1520.

Sincerely,

Kristin Monahan