

Submitter: Sam Drevo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1593

Chair Meek and members of the committee,

First I want to express my discontent that you let Sen. Steiner eat up 40 minutes of time explaining her decision to give a tax cut to wealthy wall street timber corporations that I was denied an opportunity to speak and share how wildfire personally impacted me. This was very discouraging.

My name is Sam Drevo and I am submitting in support of SB 1993. I want to thank you for your work and support of Wildfire Bill 762, & 1520 last week and taking this important step to evolve Oregon's wildfire policies to help Oregon's wildfire survivors recover and rebuild and prepare better. These wildfire bills are close to my heart and I was hoping for the time and your understanding as to why they are so important to me and all Oregonians affected by wildfire (growing every year).

In 2020, I lived in Gates, Oregon. I invested 24 years of my life in building a whitewater business in Gates, Mill City and in the Santiam Canyon. My mom and I lost everything we owned in the power line ignited fires on Labor Day 2020. We escaped with just the clothes on our back. Today, 3 years later, we still have not received compensation for our losses. Our community is only partially rebuilt, and I now live in your district.

The 2020 fires showed us that the risk is everywhere. Insurance companies are pulling out of parts of Oregon. My business had 2 properties burn in the fires, and my family home burned to the ground. We have struggled to obtain insurance on the on the only building left standing in the Santiam Canyon. Imagine Chair Meek if you couldn't obtain insurance for one of your restaurants after a devastating fire burned two others and your home. Put yourself in my shoes. Power utilities are proposing to hike rates, trying to limit their liability, and adding to everyone's costs. And, yes, we can expect to see more fire in the future. We were all on a L2 Evacuation in sept of 2022 in Oregon City as power line fires ignited dry vegetation and the fires marched several miles down the Clackamas River from Mclver Park (with an east wind).

As a fire survivor, we need support to rebuild and we also need your commitment and action to help all Oregonians make sure this level of loss never happens again. As part of this we need to look at accountability for power companies. We need to fund programs to focus from the home and community outward. And, we need to examine every source of funding and make sure it is fair to Oregon. We are all having to pay more for climate risk, and this falls heavily on Oregonians who do not have much

ability to bear additional costs.

In this light, I support an examination of our historical tax systems, which have not been examined in over 30 years. We do not have a clear-eyed assessment of whether the largest forest landowners (and REITs) are paying their fair share towards fire protection costs and mitigation for their hundreds of thousands to over a million acres of land owned by the largest corporations which under Steiners proposal would give them a tax CUT!

Mr. Chair, I wish you had given me a chance to speak and used your leadership to send this out of committee, scheduled a work session, and send it on to the floor for a vote. As a fire survivor, a constituent that owns a business in your district, and one of many Oregonians getting squeezed by climate risk, we need increased funding for fire programs that stimulate action by all of us to make our homes and communities more resistant to fire while maintaining live ability and work ability.