

Submitter:	Taylor Hunter
On Behalf Of:	Fire victim
Committee:	House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB926

My name is Taylor Hunter, I am a survivor of the 2020 Obenchain fire and a major supporter of SB 926. I was living at home at the time of the fire one week out from heading to college. My mom called my husband and I to come home asap and gather anything from my room that we could because the fire was making its way. What was an exciting day shopping for my future school year was quickly turned into a complete nightmare. When we finally reached the road to my parents house a man was setting up roadblocks at the entrance of the road. I immediately began to cry because the phones were no longer working, I hadn't heard from my parents or brother who were home, were they okay? Were we too late? When I told the man I needed to see if they were okay and that my calls wouldn't go through he let us go but told us to be careful and quick! The entire mountain side was on fire, the ash was everywhere and it looked like late evening with the dark smoke completely surrounding us. The fire was right behind the house and the wind and heat was something I will never forget, it was absolutely terrifying. We only grabbed a handful of clothes, my husband ran to the cats and could only grab half they were so scared and didn't want to come to us. I will never forget only about 5 to 10 minutes of being there my dad yelled WE NEED TO GO NOW! Half of our kitties and all of our chickens and ducks had to be left behind. We lost our entire home, most of our chickens, three ducks, and two of our precious kitties...

I support SB 926 because PacifiCorp caused this devastation almost 5 years ago and my family has yet to complete their home. It should not be the responsibility of Oregonians to pay for the damage they did not cause. PacifiCorp is a Billion dollar company, owned by a Trillion dollar company. There is a lot of worry about their ability to pay and the scarcity of bankruptcy. But what about those that have little to nothing after their home was destroyed or damaged? This is an incredibly wealthy company, I believe the financial concern needs to be with the fire victims. How much money is going into lawyers and others helping PacifiCorp fight this lawsuit? How much money does PacifiCorp, a billion dollar corporation gain from their dividends while we struggle to rebuild and have to relive that nightmare day? This bill would be a major win on accountability, being reckless and negligent should not come with a bail out. A large corporate company comes with a large responsibility and we have not seen ownership taken for their actions. SB 926 would help bring resolution that is coming up on 5 years overdue. SB 926 would encourage large corporations to keep better safety measures in the future and hopefully prevent recklessness and negligence. Thank you.

