

Submitter:	Lisa Matthews
On Behalf Of:	Fire Victims Self and Family
Committee:	House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB926

As an Oregon tax paying citizen of 44 years I fully support this bill as I believe it is a significant disservice to the James Class plaintiffs (myself + family included) to allow PacifiCorp to increase rates to offset their poor business decisions prior to finalizing claims for the plaintiffs and profit based on the courts verdict of their gross negligence.

Seven months prior to the fire, in February 2020 I was diagnosed with Stage IV ovarian cancer. In the same month I began the 1st of 8 extensive chemo treatments including joining a drug trial plus surgery to extend my overall survival rate. On August 7th of 2020 I completed therapy and was looking forward to spending the rest of my life enjoying our beautiful forested river property as a sanctuary - that desire would be short lived.

Exactly 1 month later in the evening of September 7 we were alerted by our neighbor, a retired fire fighter that Potato Hill was on fire and that he and his wife were evacuating (his effort saved our lives). Potato Hill is less than 1 mile from our home. There was no warning system or time to gather personal belongings, jewelry, family heirloom antiques, photos, art collection or family pet. Once again, I was literally fighting for my life and to save my family.

Our home, property was a total loss and 8 days later on September 15th my husband and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary at a hotel with clothes/shoes that we bought at a thrift store because we literally had nothing (see included pictures). It has been years since the fire verdict without settlement compensation yet we faithfully continue to rebuild the home and life that we lost with our retirement savings and fixed income. Any insulting rate increase would be an serious economic burden.

Hold the utilities responsible for the damage they caused and prioritize the people of Oregon.