

Submitter:

Fred Cuzzo

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB926

Dear Chairperson and Representatives,

I am a survivor of the South Obenchain fire during the Labor Day fires 9/8/2020. I woke up the morning of 9/8/2020 and it was unlike anything I have ever witnessed at my property in almost 40 years at that time. There was thick heavy smoke everywhere and a very strong hot wind coming from the East, which was very unusual. I immediately made my way up my driveway and observed neighbors property across the Butte Falls Hwy. burning and loud explosions occurring. I then knew I would have to get out while I could. Prior to this all happening, I had no warning or emergency alert to notify me of what was occurring. I got into my truck and headed down the highway with fire and smoke along the road. After only about 1/8th of a mile traveling down the road, I saw a lot of fire ahead of me going across the road and thought I would just have to drive through it as fast as I could. That almost turned into a fatal call on my part as I entered the fire and could not see past my hood. I ran off the road into a large bunch of blackberries and was barely able to get back on the road, but did, and was able to get through barely. After returning to the property that evening, I discovered I had lost all contents of a house, large barn and several other structures. I am also a wounded Vietnam veteran and my ranch was my life and my safe haven. That has all been taken away from me by Pacificorps negligence and recklessness.

Pacificorp has already been found liable for recklessly causing the Labor Day fires. Big investor-backed utilities like Pacificorp are using delay tactics to avoid paying survivors like me to rebuild our lives and communities. They should not be permitted to fund these litigation tactics with the money of Oregonian ratepayers.

SB 926 levels the playing field and prevents conglomerates like Berkshire Hathway-Pacificorp's 100% owner-from getting rich off of Oregonian ratepayers before fire survivors are made whole!!

Justice delayed is justice denied!! That is why I urge you to support SB 926 , hold a committee hearing and work session as soon as possible, and vote YES in both. on the floor. The clock is ticking for me as I am 2 months away from being 80 years old. Please try to put yourself in my place!! I have been waiting 5 years for justice and not seen a dollar yet.