

May 12, 2025
Debbie Fawcett, Gates, Oregon
In Support of SB 926

My name is Debbie Fawcett and my husband James, daughter Abby and son Josh lost our home in Gates during the 2020 Beachie Creek fire. Everything we held dear was completely burned to the ground. Our 5-bedroom home sat on our 27-acre property that's been in our family for over 50 years.

On that day my life and my family's life changed forever. We became victims of Pacific Power's fires due to their gross negligence. The experience of being trapped by downed power lines while fire raced towards us is a horror that will forever be imprinted on our minds. Life is now delineated as "before the fire" and "after the fire".

I am not alone in my loss and grief. There are many who suffered just like my family and now find themselves being held hostage by Pacific Power as they weaponize their ability to manipulate time and money.

You see, almost 5 years after Pacific Power's fire destroyed our homes and life as we knew it not one of us has received one dime from Pacific Power.

While they go to court and claim to take responsibility in front of the juries for the damage they have caused, their emphatic reassurances, taking responsibility, rings hollow as victims wait year after year for justice and restitution.

This is a particularly harsh reality for our most vulnerable fire victims, the elderly, the disabled, and those suffering from illness. Time is precious and limited and not on their side. Many of my neighbors and family friends are well into their 80's. As each year passes by and Pacific Power strategically delays settlements, they operate with impunity..... paying out shareholder dividends..... no sense of urgency or worry for their future, it's business as usual.

As the years tick by the fire victim pool diminishes as victims die having never received payment or settlement for their loss. Victims who are still homeless, living in RV's and unable to rebuild because they don't have the resources. Each year of delayed settlement is a financial benefit for Pacific Power as gone now are the victims who can no longer speak or testify to recount the horror and loss they once suffered as they simply become "The Estate Of" after their death.

This bill is an opportunity to level the playing field. It would make it harder for a company to try and let the clock run out to gain a financial advantage. It puts people before dividends and ensures we are not forgotten. It encourages active good faith participation in mediation with a vested interest in the outcome. It gives the victims leverage in a meaningful way that

changes the current narrative. It creates a sense of urgency for pacific power where one currently does not exist. It gives us hope that one day we will see resolution- we will finally have justice and be able to move on with what we now refer to as "Life after the Fire".

Please pass SB 926

Respectfully,

Debbie Fawcett