

From: [Cheryl Gribskov](#)
To: [Rep Kotek](#); [HWREC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Wildfire Destruction - City of Gates
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 9:39:19 AM

I am a second home owner in Gates, Oregon. My wonderful home was lost, along with important heirlooms and art. Our loss was devastating, but we had a home to live in. So many didn't. Citizens in this little town who lost it all and were living far and wide joined via Facebook to plan the rebuild of the town. We were a collective force for the future of Gates and our community.

To learn that we may lose our important infrastructure through no fault of our own is almost as devastating as the loss of our homes. We rely on city hall to process important documents, to work with property owners on their rebuild direction, and to keep us linked to state and country services as we plod through the process.

Like many other small towns who experienced the raging fires in September, we need the continuity and the support from city officials who understand that many residents may lose their place in the town in which they were born and spent their entire lives. We need the structure of representative government that keeps an eye on all of the needs of this town, and helps us through their association with Council of Governments, county officials and state agencies. Now is not the time to pull the proverbial rug out from under all of us who are community as well as proud Gates residents.

We know that with advocacy groups such as League of Oregon Cities and legislators with a keen knowledge of resources, Gates and other small cities trying to survive can get the help needed. Thank you for your consideration and quick action!

Cheryl Gribskov
Proud Gates Resident

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It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.

e.e. cummings