

From: [Joanne Mina](#)
To: [HWREC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Equitable Wildfire Recovery
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Oregon Legislature House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery
Chair Clem, Vice-chairs Marsh and Lewis, and members of the Committee,

I write to share with you my experiences serving Latinx Oregonians across the state. A community that suffered as a result of the 2020 wildfires but whose voices may not reach this committee as another sign of inequities in Oregon.

Serving in the Wildfire Economic Recovery Council (WERC) we reached out to underserved community members and heard how much different it has been navigating and accessing services for Latinos. From emergency notifications to abusive landlord practices, and barriers to contracting opportunities for recovery and rebuild, Latinos, Pueblos Originarios and Immigrant Oregonians are heavily impacted.

Jocksana Corona, Wildfire Survivor from Talent shared with WERC:

“More than 70% of the destruction in Talent was in mobile home parks and we don’t get the option to rebuild. At least half of my neighbors didn’t have homeowner’s insurance, in part because [mobile homes] are hard to insure. We had it but my mother-in-law and sister didn’t. People don’t have empathy because of that, and they have to deal with the consequences, but it wasn’t an option for them to have it insured.”

Jocksana Corona saved lives during the fires by alerting neighbors that otherwise would have gotten zero notice. This should never happen again in Oregon, please lead with a clear commitment to an equitable response that meets *All of the needs of All of our communities*. Environmental justice must guide the future if we want to save lives as our climate changes. Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery please take the WERC recommendations as a baseline guide to address the wide range of needs in Oregon and build upon it in service to our state and people.

Oregonians need housing recognized as a human right and equitable planning, investment and execution of work that allows for Latinos and other underserved communities to thrive. Financial investment must come with accountability and oversight tools to ensure and apply an equity lens across all services, goals, strategies and budgets, and that all are held accountable to clear and consistent performance metrics.

Respectfully,

Joanne Mina

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