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To: [HWREC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Wildfire Recovery - McKenzie River / Blue River needs
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My home, business and town (Blue River) was wiped out by the Holiday Farm Fire. The McKenzie River/ Blue River area, once a resource town, has transitioned to tourism. Yet as we are unincorporated and too small to affordably incorporate, we have few tools to self direct our future - land use, community sewer etc.

For us, and I imagine many others, rebuilding smaller, older rural communities - especially in older, unincorporated downtown areas, we have a problem with handling septic.

We need a special ability to add community septic systems in these smaller areas.

Current rules at the state levels make it nearly impossible for smaller unincorporated communities to address old and failing septic systems.

Many of these lots were platted ages ago - and don't meet lot size requirements to meet current building codes.

Many of these towns are near waterways and a program to make it easier for these types of communities to get a community septic would help keep our rivers clean.

Due to smaller lot sizes and large numbers of failing septic systems, we are in desperate and immediate need for a community sewer in Blue River.

An Oregon company, Orenco Systems, makes a great, small and self contained community sewer (STEP system) that is affordable and is great environmentally. (Other companies do this as well.)

We have the technology - we just need a clear and simple process from the state to create mini-districts and get these built. Right now the process is just too cumbersome and expensive.

Why is this important:

- Good for environment - Cleaner rivers
- Support Rural Oregon
- Covid reveals the need for more housing in rural areas.

In addition, land use rules set up in SB 100 are based on old outdated economics, and are killing rural communities. It needs an update.

I am not advocating over development or sprawl. I am advocating small community vitality and reduction in environmental footprint.

I think these are things most of us can agree upon.

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PS - Our ability to rebuild our facility is critically restricted based on our lack of a community septic/sewer system. We are one of the key anchor businesses providing a precious life blood of jobs and tourists that support other businesses. It's critical that we get movement on this issue at the state level for us to rebuild, and for our presence to be here to support our other business and schools.



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