

We are Richard and Joy Wilson, property owners in Otis, OR.

As with most of the emails that you've received, I'm sure, we lost our home in the Echo Mountain Fire. My husband's business, Appliance Science, was based in our garage (his workshop). He lost his business as well.

My concern is what kind of long-term support will be available to the residents here who've lost everything? How will felling of dangerous trees be enforced on private property (Echo Mountain itself is covered with burned trees, most on private property...there are several homes right at the foot of Echo Mountain and the folks who have moved back there in their RV's and trailers and campers are terrified that those trees are going to blow over onto them.

Also, will there be any sort of practicable solutions to the extreme housing shortage here? If it weren't for the kindness and compassion of my employer, my husband and I would probably still be living in a hotel or would have had to move away to find new jobs and housing. There are dozens of Otis residents living all over the County in hotels and motels. Many couldn't find homes, apartments, or anything and had to leave the County altogether in order to move back in with family or friends. As an employer, we lost some employees due to this very issue. The FEMA trailers aren't here yet.

One of our employees didn't even lose his home in the fire: he was one of our department managers, living with his wife and teen aged children in a rental house here in Lincoln City. The owner of the rental house lived in California and was burned out of her home in the wildfires they had there. She needed to move into the house she owned here so our manager had to find another job and move out of our area. This is a college educated person with a high demand skill-set who could have afforded another house but there were none here to rent. There wasn't even anything for him to buy here.

Realtors here are begging for inventory. As soon as a house goes on the market, it sells immediately, sometimes the same day. There's always a bidding war and home owners are getting tens of thousands more than their asking price because buyers are so desperate to get a house. That's great for sellers. But there aren't enough homes to go around. And the poverty cycle continues.

This housing crisis has been keeping Lincoln County unstable and families in poverty for decades. Something needs to be done. I don't have any answers but am hoping someone does.

Another housing issue: Lincoln City is a tourist destination with literally hundreds of vacation rental houses. During the Echo Mountain Fire, I'm unaware of any of the vacation rental companies offering to help house people. My husband and I are in a two bedroom, two bathroom 1100 sq ft cottage and our insurance company is paying \$4170 a month for us to live here while we work on getting our own home rebuilt. Insurance companies for those who had homeowner's insurance would have happily paid the VRD companies to house their clients. After speaking with several people in Lincoln City (board members of local non-profits who are serving the victims of the Echo Mountain Fire, realtors, contractors, pastors of local churches, city employees, and others) about this issue, all have said that they've not heard of any of the VRD companies stepping up to offer to house any of the victims. This is appalling. Having worked in the VRD industry for so long, I know how much money they bring to our community and how many people they employ. We're thankful that so many VRD's are here so that we can offer employment and have so many amenities in town. However, it's disgraceful for these companies that have made so much money off of Lincoln City for so long and couldn't make a coordinated effort - or even individual efforts - to help the people who clean and maintain those VRD's, most of whom live in Otis because they can't afford to live in Lincoln City. Insurance companies would have paid for so many of their clients to live in these homes. The housing situation here is desperate and it would have shown a real community spirit if the VRD companies had done this. Perhaps in future, VRD companies can be 'invited' by the State or County to offer a certain percentage of their inventory to people affected by local disasters. There will always be floods, fires, earthquakes, etc. Perhaps planning could start now to address this issue...no one can force the homeowners to offer their private property. But they can be induced, persuaded, incentivized, and given a ton of PR for their community spirit. I find their current lack of community spirit appalling. Maybe I'm completely wrong...maybe there are dozens of families living in VRD's right now here and I just don't

know about it. Maybe the VRD companies donated tens of thousands of dollars to help the victims of the Echo Mountain Fire and I just don't know about it. Maybe the VRD companies have put up their own employees in some of their VRD's and I just don't know about it. But this is a very small town and I think I would have heard if any of these was the case. To have vacant homes sitting around while so many are desperately in need of housing is terribly demoralizing. In future, perhaps the VRD companies can at least tell the public what they're doing to help instead of leaving the public to wonder and get angry...as we all know, if you don't fill the information void, rumors abound. If the VRD companies are doing their part to help local victims of the fires, then they should be lauded for it instead of letting the affected public stew about perceived disparity.

One other thing...right after the fire, my husband and I were living in a local hotel. Several fire victims were housed at the same hotel. We'd stand in the parking lot sharing our common grief. In the same hotel were tourists, living it up, enjoying themselves, laughing, and having a grand time. While I don't begrudge them their vacation, it felt as appropriate as having a mosh pit at a funeral. All over town, groups and families on vacation were walking through shops and stores, cramming the highway, having a grand time. they had to drive through portions of burned out highway to get here. While I don't wish they had stayed away (our local businesses are too needy to not have these tourists) it was galling to have people come vacation in an area that was JUST traumatized by this horrific fire. I heard one lady complaining to the front desk person about how the fires had ruined her vacation. I can't tell you how angry this made me feel. There's no way to legislate compassion, empathy, decency, or manners. There's nothing any of you could have done about having tourists in a burned out area. But at least you know how many of us felt having these tourist come gawk at our misery. They weren't here to help or encourage. We, the victims, were ruining their vacations.

There. I've vented. I want some change in the VRD regs to allow for a mechanism for VRD companies to offer shelter during future disasters. I want dangerous trees on both public and private land taken down asap. I want real, long-term, affordable solutions to our housing crisis in this County....we should be able to live in yurts, tiny homes, park model homes, even if the zoning doesn't typically allow it.

Thank you for listening.

Joy Wilson