

**From:** [Geri A. Betz](#)  
**To:** [HWREC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Holiday Farm Fire  
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Dear Committee Members,

As one of many who have lost our homes in this summer's terrible fires I deeply hope you will pass legislation to eliminate unnecessary land use hurdles and expenses that are inhibiting if not eliminating our ability to replace our homes.

I had two manufactured homes located near Blue River that were completely destroyed in Lane County's Holiday Farm Fire. I have been trying to obtain building permits to replace the dwellings since shortly after the fire.

One home was located within the mapped Floodway of the McKenzie River. It was allowed to be placed at that location in 1996 because by survey that site was located above the 100 year flood elevation. Lane County concurred with the surveyor's determination.

To replace that home I'm now being required by Lane County to apply for a Floodway Development Permit application and paid a fee of \$2756. I also had to hire a surveyor to reconfirm that the site is above the 100 year floodplain elevation.

At the County's recommendation I am also in the process of applying for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) from FEMA for recognition that the site is vertically outside the Floodway/Floodplain. Of course, an application and fee is required for the FEMA required County sign off for the LOMA application and additional survey work was needed.

The County also required a geotechnical report to address Earthquake Liquefaction at a cost of \$3946.26. The result of the study showed no such issue existed.

My other dwelling was a 2003 replacement of the original dwelling installed in 1993. Both dwellings were found to be located outside the floodplain at the time of building permit issuance. I was required to hire the surveyor to map the existing footprint of the destroyed mobile home and the Floodplain boundary on my building permit plot plan for submittal. Yet the County still required that I apply for a floodplain verification permit to determine that the homesite was indeed outside the 100 year floodplain. I was also required to obtain another Geotechnical report for potential Earthquake Liquefaction that again showed that there was no such risk at this site. The Geotech that was on site said this is a big unnecessary expenditure in this location.

Both sites require application for a sewage system inspection at a cost of over \$900 each.

I have spent tens of thousands of dollars in clean-up of the tree damage and dwelling debris with only a small portion of which is covered by insurance. I had hoped to start replacing my homes as soon as possible so I didn't wait for the slow State funded clean-up option that has now developed. The majority of the clean-up was for tree damage outside the homesite.

Just dealing with the insurance companies itself is an ongoing nightmare. That combined with site clean-up, permit fees and delays make the loss of my homes nearly intolerable.

To add insult to injury replacement manufactured dwellings are difficult to find and are increasing in price on a monthly basis. The dealerships I'm dealing with won't begin construction until I have a building permit issued. The last I checked if I ordered now

the home would not be available before October at the earliest.

I am not faulting Lane County for these problems. I believe that their hands are tied and that they are unable to do much to expedite the replacement of dwellings under current local, State and Federal rules and regulations. It is essential that the Oregon Legislature adopt regulations that reduce the complications involved in the replacement of our homes and send a message to the Counties and City that they are to be positive and proactive in the help of the victims of the wildfire to allow replacement of their dwellings.

Please do your best work. We need it.

Geri A. Betz

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