

To: The Oregon House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery

February 14, 2022

Our family lost our cabin along the Little North Santiam River in the 2020 Beachie Creek Fire. The cabin had been in our family since 1954. Since I will not be able to participate in the public hearing on Wildfire Recovery, I would like to submit these comments:

Since the 2020 fires, it has become a major effort for people to rebuild their homes, cabins and lives. Thankfully, much support has been given by public agencies and many private groups. For this we are grateful. There is an area, however, where I request additional support: Fire-wise building.

With trends showing an increase in wildfires in Oregon, it has become increasingly important for us to build our homes in ways that are resistant to the fires that will come in the future. Unfortunately, fire-resistant building materials (roofing, siding & windows) are often more expensive than other materials. This can be a deterrent for some who would prefer to build a more fire-resistant home.

I request the following as ways to provide additional community support in the area of fire-wise building:

- 1) Provide additional outreach to our communities promoting the importance of building with fire-resistant materials.
- 2) Develop more robust programs (grants, incentives) to help property-owners cover the costs of building with the more costly fire-resistant materials.
- 3) Provide outreach information describing the importance of maintaining defensible space around homes.

Thank-you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Jim Quiring

Salem, Oregon