

Submitter: Ralph Manon
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB1520

Dear Senator, I am writing in support of SB1520, which will be presented to the Oregon Senate in Salem this Thursday, February 8. We and hundreds of other 2020 fire victims are trying to get the state of Oregon to have the tax on legal settlements subtracted.

Our families and communities have been through so much over the past few years, recovery efforts are still in progress and the mental scars will never go away. Taxation of these settlement funds would be yet another impact to those who are finally seeing at least a sense of closure after years of altered life. That is time that could have been spent not rebuilding from devastation, but adding on to what they had, pursuing goals, spending time with family, is gone and will never be gotten back.

As you know, the settlement monies were based on enormous and calculable losses. Every penny is needed to rebuild homes and other structures, replant woodlots, make up for lost income and more. In addition to rebuilding structures, this money will help rebuild these hard-hit communities' economies. Fire survivors will purchase homes or building materials, hire local contractors, plumbers and electricians, buy appliances and furniture to replace what was incinerated. In short, by not leveling a tax on settlement monies, you will provide a boost to the economic growth of the counties that lost so very much.

Thank you for your work on our behalf,

Ralph Manon
19108 Pumice Butte Rd
Bend OR, 97702