

Submitter: Patricia Lee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB1520

I am writing in support of SB1520 and encourage the committee to also do so.

I am thankful that no community lives were lost in the Archie Creek Fires but for those of us who lost EVERYTHING else the mental and physical toll will be felt for the remainder our years. Insurance proceeds have allowed some to pay off mortgages and debt, others have been able to buy or rebuild, but many are left with little or nothing and have been relying on the settlement proceeds to allow them to move forward in life. Allowing the recipients to retain nearly 10% in income tax savings can make a huge difference. This is money that will stay in the local community, and filter through to the local and state economy.

No amount of money can replace family treasures, our beloved forestland, hand-built homes and gardens, and workshops, but it can ease the burden for all.

As the last surviving member of my family, and no way to retrieve even a picture of my parents or brother, there are days I feel as though the bulk of my life has been erased. Until you have experienced the depth of loss the fires have dealt to so many across the state you will never be able to grasp the long-term effects. Passage of SB1520 is one small step to helping the citizens in the fire communities of Oregon move forward with their lives.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patricia Lee