

Submitter: Ralph Bloemers  
On Behalf Of: Clarifying Amendment for Consistency with Digest  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure: HB4007

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee,

Through my research and careful review of the bill, I understand that the intent of the drafters was to include all wildfire survivors who meet criteria under ORS 477.089 - e.g. who were burned up by powerline ignitions in the 2020 Labor Day fires, and in recent fires. The language in the Digest reflects this intent and says: "Exempts awards from and legal fees paid in wildfire suits from income tax." In the bill itself, Section 2.(1) states: "There may be subtracted from federal taxable income any amount received in settlement of a civil action arising from wildfire, as defined in ORS 477.089, and awarded to a plaintiff."

I write to recommend and ask that you change and clarify the language consistent with the Digest and overall intent of the bill as expressed by its backers, by the following amendment. It is important for people taking tax positions to have clarity, as it involves substantial sums of resources. The proposed amendment would be a change to Section 2.1 clarifying that the subtraction applies to "any amount received in a civil action arising from wildfire, as defined in ORS 477.089, and awarded to plaintiff."

Sincerely,  
Ralph Bloemers  
Director of Fire Safe Communities  
Green Oregon Alliance