

Submitter: Marico Fayre
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB4007

Thank you for reading our testimonies and considering this important bill.

It's difficult to talk about the experience of losing my family's home, and everything my parents spent 50 years building, and the thousands of acres of incredible forest and wildlife surrounding Rock Creek and North Umpqua River. Such a loss is almost unimaginable, and the impact of is ongoing. Nothing in our lives has been the same since—not even close—and neither us nor the land will ever return to the way we were. For three and a half years we've been rebuilding, like so many families in the area. We haven't been sure if we'll even have enough money to finish the house, let alone replant the many acres of timber lost. We focus on putting one foot in front of the other, appreciating every fern and maple leaf, and being grateful we were able to rebuild at all.

We're starting a new chapter now that the lawsuit is wrapped up. But it is far from a panacea for the struggles my parents have and continue to live every day, the ongoing health challenges we all have, the loss of income, or the long-term trauma.

The settlement amounts may sound substantial, but please understand the amount each family will have to live on is far less. After attorney's fees and taxes, the fire survivors won't see half the total, we won't even end up with 25% of the "settlement." After three and half years of loss and grief and striving to heal and help each other, many of our families will end up with a sum that is less than one year of an executive's salary.

My sister and I do not want any of the money, we just want our parents to be able to live out their lives modestly, on the land they love, without being constantly in survival mode. And we, the younger generation, will continue working and paying our taxes as all of us have for decades.

All we're asking for is that the state allow our community to use settlement funds to care for the people and the land of southern Oregon. To reinvest the money in our local and state economy for building materials, seedlings, groceries, health care.

Please pass HB 4007. Doing so will positively impact the lives of hundreds of Oregonians.