

Submitter: Douglas Matthews

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB587

SB1520 2024 exempts payment resulting from jury awards relating to the 2020 wildfires. That exemption ends this year.

My wife and I are victims of the negligence of PacifiCorp and suffered a total loss of our home, all contents, 4 cars, and our beloved cat. It has been 3 years since PacifiCorp was found liable and grossly negligent yet they have literally made NO payments toward any of the multiple judgements against them.

As we go into the third year of damages trials it is clear by their actions that PacifiCorp has no intention to resolve this litigation in a timely manner. Their strategy has been to stall, stall, stall, and as such it is highly unlikely that they will sit down and cooperatively negotiate a fair settlement any time soon, and even if they did, at this point the logistics required to distribute any settlement funds are not likely to allow for the distribution of those funds in time for any victims to book the payments on their 2025 taxes.

As you know SB 1520 tax exemption ends Jan 1 2026.

SB 587 2025 will allow the intended tax exemption to be relative to the date of the event (wildfire) rather than letting the tax exemption expire before any of the litigants have been compensated.

I strongly support

Thank You

Doug Matthews