

DevNW

DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

February 22, 2023

House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2982

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Elmer, Vice-Chair Sosa and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe and I work for DevNW, an affordable housing development and counseling agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion and Clackamas Counties.

We support HB 2982, as we know it is a critical step in the pathway to recovery for many individuals, families and communities.

In the wake of the 2020 Labor Day fires, DevNW expanded our financial, rental and pre-purchase education and counseling program to support survivors. Since then, we have provided one-on-one services that include navigating insurance, FEMA and SBA, identifying and accessing financial resources to aid in short-term stability, and working at length with survivors on pursuing their long-term recovery efforts.

We have seen firsthand the physical destruction and mental and emotional trauma for survivors. HB 2982 will support recovery by providing a safety net for 70% of coverage of previously purchased in the case of a major disaster. Additionally, we support the choice for survivors to submit an inventory, increased transparency from the insurer to disclose methodology for depreciating covered property and require payments within specified time limits.

We applaud the work to support wildfire survivors and the look ahead on how to ease the pathway to recovery when major disasters occur in the future. We urge your support of HB 2982 and thank you for all of your work on behalf of our communities.

Sincerely,



Karen Saxe

Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships

devNW.org

