

Submitter: Roger Knudson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1541

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

My wife and I moved to Eugene in the fall of 2022 in no small part because of the unparalleled natural beauty of the state. Almost immediately after arriving, we had our first lifetime experience of waking up to find every surface outside covered in ash and air quality alerts on our phones due to wildfires near Eugene. We are strong supporters of legislation that will protect Oregon's environment and pay for the costs of recovering from climate related disasters.

Senate Bill 1541, the Climate Resilience Superfund bill is based on the common-sense idea that if you make a mess, you should help clean it up. Big oil's climate pollution has caused Oregon wildfires, lethal heat, and extreme weather to grow worse, costing us billions while they collect massive profits. The Climate Resilience Superfund will make the largest, out-of-state fossil fuel polluters pay their share for our safety and recovery, instead of Oregonians.

Taxpayers and local governments are already paying for the climate crisis, even though they're not the ones causing it. For decades, large polluters have dumped climate pollution into our air and water. These polluters always knew about the destruction being caused by the pollution that resulted from using their products, but they continued to do it while piling up massive profits with no accountability. Now it's time they pay for the damage they've done.

The funds generated by the Climate Resilience Superfund will be used to make Oregon more resilient to wildfires, upgrade homes with energy efficient cooling and protection from the elements, strengthen transportation and the electrical power grid, invest in agriculture and fisheries, and more, to ensure the communities most impacted by the climate crisis benefit the most.

As legislators, you have the power to shift the costs from your constituents to these mega corporations. My wife and I urge you to pass SB 1541 and finally make these polluters pay for the damage they've done to communities across our state.

Thank you for taking our views into account.