



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

February 3, 2026

To: **Sen. Jeff Golden, Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire**

Re: **SB 1541** – Relating to greenhouse gas emissions – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet, and supports climate goals consistent with the best available science that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. The League advocates in favor of laws, regulations, and policies to mitigate climate change and its impact.

LWVOR joins the Make Polluters Pay Coalition in support of SB 1541, which would carry forward efforts to help Oregon communities pay for billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure repairs and resilience projects made necessary by wildfires, floods, and other climate-enhanced disasters.

The Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program created by this bill would enable Oregon to assess the financial damages our state has suffered due to historical greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and to seek to recover costs from the major fossil fuel producers and refiners ("super-emitters") whose global GHG emissions have increased the frequency and severity of wildfires, droughts, and extreme heat.

The fossil fuel industry foresaw the impacts of human-induced climate change during the 1980s, but hid those forecasts from public view. Since then, the industry has reaped hundreds of billions of dollars in profit while leaving public agencies and taxpayers on the hook to repair the damage caused by climate change. As a result, the super-emitters have ample wealth to help pay for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience work that will save lives and reduce costs to states and individuals going forward.

Superfund moneys would help Oregon build resilience against future climate disasters—for example, via protective upgrades for homes, businesses, and electricity transmission lines, and by using nature-based solutions. Importantly, 30% of funds generated would be set aside for wildfire prevention and response, and at least 40% for resilience projects that benefit environmental justice communities.

LWVOR recognizes that this bill, which requests \$300,000 for start-up costs, will face strong headwinds during a short session with many pressing priorities. Some will question whether the state should devote precious resources to enact, defend if necessary, and finally implement a program of this magnitude.

Oregon's gross wildfire costs have soared over the past decade, reaching at least \$352 million in 2024 alone, and these already staggering costs are likely to multiply as the climate crisis worsens. Without the fossil fuel industry paying its fair share of the costs of past damage, Oregon has no realistic strategy for preparing to meet the climate challenge ahead.

LWVOR urges your support for SB 1541. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Klein".

Barbara Klein  
Acting President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Keith".

Claudia Keith  
Climate Emergency Coordinator.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josie Koehne".

Josie Koehne  
Climate Emergency Volunteer