

Submitter: Catherine Godlewski
On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or SB1541
Topic:

For decades taxpayers have had to pay for the damage incurred by burning fossil fuels while large fossil fuel companies hid the evidence of the negative impacts doing so was having on the environment. Just as tobacco companies attempted to hide the deadly consequences of using their products, finally lawmakers held them to account after thousands of lives were lost to the ill effects of smoking. Large corporations who polluted waterways, land and the air have had to contribute to superfunds to clean up the damage they caused. It is time fossil fuel companies are held to the same standard. Using their products has caused severe damage to the climate, and they now must be held accountable in cleaning up their messes. It is the fair thing to do to require fossil fuel companies to address their liability in more severe wildfires, flooding, heat domes, drought. Taxpayers and small business owners need relief in shouldering the financial burden of more expensive climate-related disasters.

Municipalities need financial assistance to rebuild after climate-related disasters and to improve resilience to infrastructure. Monetary support from a superfund will allow municipalities to hire workers to accomplish this necessary work. Requiring those entities who are responsible for causing damage to rectify the problems is the ethical, fair and sensible thing to do.