



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Support for SB 1541 - Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program

February 5, 2026

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeAquil. I am an energy system modeler and climate policy analyst, and I am submitting these comments on behalf of MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

Oregonians are already suffering from the well documented economic and health impacts of climate change, and our local communities do not have the funds to deal with these increasing costs. We believe it's only fair that the big fossil fuel companies who contributed to our climate crisis have to pay their share of the damage to our communities.

SB 1541 - Oregon's Climate Resilience Superfund bill will require major, multi-national fossil fuel companies to pay their fair share for climate-related disasters and to fund solutions that prepare our communities for future impacts. Importantly, funds will be prioritized for wildfire preparedness and recovery and climate resilience projects.

Only the largest multinational suppliers of coal, petroleum products and natural gas will be covered, and required to pay into the fund in proportion to their share of greenhouse gas emissions during the 1995-2024 period. The threshold for coverage is sufficiently high that most of the suppliers in Oregon will not be covered. This is also the reason that these large multinational companies will not be able to pass the cost of this damage recovery fee onto consumers.

Under the bill, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) will lead an interagency team to administer the bill's provisions. This team will create a climate resilience implementation strategy including, but not limited to, wildfire prevention and mitigation, nature-based solutions, and climate adaptive infrastructure. Potential projects include:

- Preparing homes, buildings, powerlines, and more to be wildfire safe;
- Sustainable, preventative work such as controlled burns to reduce wildfire risk;
- Community emergency centers
- More home energy-efficiency and weatherization to protect us from extreme heat and smoke, while lowering utility bills;
- Hardening roads, overpasses and bridges
- Rebuilding better and more resilient after major floods or wildfires, and
- Combating water shortages with more efficient irrigation equipment for Oregon farmers.



Although both Vermont and New York are being sued in federal district court over their superfund bills, these states have strong legal support from state AGs and philanthropic support from environmental law groups that have stepped up to support their bill. We are taking what lessons we can from these lawsuits and believe HB 1541 is as strong and durable a bill as possible. Oregon's communities need relief now and we urge your support of this bill and the creation of the Climate Resilience Superfund.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pat DeLaquil
on behalf of MCAT Steering Committee