

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

Born in the late 1940's and raised in western Oregon during the 1950's to the mid'1960's, I've experienced the effects of climate change, especially since moving back to my home state in 1981. Summers are longer and hotter today and weather events, more extreme. Wildfires occur more consistently and with greater intensity.

The Climate Resilience Superfund holds polluters accountable, making large out-of-state fossil fuel companies pay their fair share for climate disasters and fund solutions to prepare Oregon communities for future impacts.

The Senate Bill 1541 is important to me and my family because my children and grandchildren are Oregon residents and face a future of higher economic and health costs living in a warming and increasingly polluted environment.

I am a retired bilingual educator, having worked with Willamette Valley farm worker and other immigrant children in Salem Keizer Schools from 1981--2008. I observed children and their family members suffering from lung disorders and respiratory illness, lost school attendance and educational opportunities because of exposure to exhaust, smoke, dust and agricultural chemicals where they lived and worked.

Weather events--flooding, extreme temperatures and wildfires--put families and the Oregon economy at risk because outdoor workers can't go to their job sites during weather advisories or suffer from long term health problems. It's not fair for Oregonians and local governments to foot the bill for these losses and risks while fossil fuel companies continue to profit.

Oregon voters and the 2026 Oregon Legislature have the power to shift costs from the people to the large corporations. I urge you to pass SB 1541 and finally make these polluters pay for the damage they've done to communities across our state.