

Feb. 4, 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

On behalf of the Jackson County Democratic Party Central Committee, I wish to convey our party's unequivocal support for SB1541. On Jan. 26, 2026, our Central Committee voted unanimously in support of the following resolution:

THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the Oregon Legislature should pass the bill variously known as the 'Make Polluters Pay' or 'Climate Resilience Superfund' Bill during the 2026 Legislative Session.

As justification for the Central Committee's position, I have appended the approved resolution.

Respectfully submitted,
David B. Sours, Party Chair
Jackson County Democrats
541-601-2948
Chair@jcdemocrats.org

A RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Resolution 2026-02

Supporting the Make Polluters Pay / Climate Resilience Superfund Bill of 2026

Whereas, the temperature of Jackson County has risen at the rate of 0.2°F per decade since the late 1800s while the precipitation, though becoming more variable, has exhibited no overall change (NOAA 2026); and

Whereas, the temperature projection for Jackson County under the Shared Socioeconomic Pathway 585 scenario is expected to rise some 10°F by the end of the century compared with the 1981-2010 average and precipitation, while potentially becoming more variable, will likely essentially remain flat (USGS 2021); and

Whereas, area burned by wildfire in the western United States has for 3,000 years shown a substantial correlation with climate while we are currently experiencing a profound deficit in area burned compared to the climatic pattern (Marlon et al. 2012) probably due to a combination of global warming-induce climate change and the success of fire suppression increasing forest biomass/fuel; and

Whereas, data from the Oregon Department of Forestry show a 20th century statewide trend in area burned that correlates with the transition in the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) from cool moist phases when area burned was low to warm dry phases when area burned was high but this pattern has been superseded over the last few decades as global warming has overshadowed the

PDO in effect (ODF 2022); and

Whereas, the 2021 heatwave is estimated to have cost Oregonians at least \$1.3 billion dollars and caused over 100 heat-related deaths. (CCI 2025); and

Whereas, in 2024 alone, climate-fueled wildfires burned nearly 2 million acres and cost Oregon over \$350 million just in firefighting costs (Kotek 2024); and

Whereas, the 2025 fire season cost the state some \$97 million by the end of August (EFCC 2025); and

Whereas, the escalating costs of wildfire suppression are placing unsustainable pressure on Oregon's state budget (Ehrlich 2025); and

Whereas, the increasing risk of forest fire can be attributed to climate change induced by emissions from fossil fuel combustion (Dahl et al. 2023); and

Whereas, greenhouse gases emitted as a result of fossil fuel combustion impose uncompensated costs on society, known as externalities (SD 2025), that we argue fossil fuel corporations should be required to fund; and

Whereas, a bill that was introduced into the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session SB1187 seeking to capture the costs of climate change imposed on Oregonians by corporations doing business in Oregon and responsible for global combustion of fossil fuels did not receive a committee vote (OLIS 2025); and

Whereas, a bill similar to SB1187 (2025), known as the 'Make Polluters Pay' or 'Climate Resilience Superfund' Bill will be introduced into the 2026 Oregon Legislative Session,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the Oregon Legislature should pass the bill variously known as the 'Make Polluters Pay' or 'Climate Resilience Superfund' Bill during the 2026 Legislative Session.

ADOPTED by the Jackson County Democratic Party Central Committee on the 26th day of January, 2026.

David Sours, Party Chair
Jackson County Democrats

References

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