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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1541

If you make a mess, you should help clean it up. Big oil's climate pollution has caused Oregon wildfires, lethal heat, and extreme weather to grow worse, costing us billions while they collect massive profits. The Climate Resilience Superfund will make the largest, out-of-state fossil fuel polluters pay their share for our safety and recovery, instead of Oregonians.

The funds generated by the Climate Resilience Superfund will be used to make Oregon more resilient to wildfires, upgrade homes with energy efficient cooling and protection from the elements, strengthen transportation and the electrical power grid, invest in agriculture and fisheries, and more, to ensure the communities most impacted by the climate crisis benefit the most.

For decades, large polluters have dumped climate pollution into our air and water while we bear the cost of heart and lung diseases, lost homes to wildfires, and higher food prices due to water shortages. These polluters always knew this was happening, but continued to do it while piling up massive profits with no accountability. Now it's time they pay for the damage they've done.

Taxpayers and local governments are already paying for the climate crisis, even though they're not the ones causing it. The costs of responding to climate-related disasters and of making our communities more resilient will have to be paid one way or another, but Oregon legislators have the power to decide who foots the bill. It's time fossil fuel companies that rake in record profits while polluting our communities pay their fair share.

From the tobacco industry to the opioid crisis, there is a long, bipartisan history of holding corporations accountable for the harm they know their products cause. The Climate Resilience Superfund is about basic fairness.