

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

When someone causes harm, they should take responsibility for fixing it. That principle is why I support the creation of the Climate Resilience Superfund: to hold polluters accountable by requiring large, out-of-state fossil fuel corporations to pay their fair share for the damage they have caused.

This bill matters to me because no one should be forced to suffer the consequences of problems they did not create or contribute to.

My name is Hadassah Napue, and I am a 16-year-old sophomore at Lincoln High School. Since pre-kindergarten, I have been taught a simple rule: if you make a mess, you clean it up. Yet when it comes to climate change, that rule has been ignored. Major fossil fuel companies continue to pollute our planet, contributing to environmental destruction, hundreds of preventable deaths, and billions of dollars in damages, while taxpayers—who played no role in creating this crisis—are left to shoulder the burden. For decades, these corporations have been protected, even as communities experience long-term consequences such as respiratory illnesses, displacement from homes, rising costs of living, droughts, and other climate-related disasters. When these harms affect innocent people, they are forced to pay out of pocket to recover from damage they did not cause. That is fundamentally unjust.

Passing the Climate Resilience Superfund would help prevent this unfair burden by ensuring that those responsible for the damage are also responsible for paying to address it. Large corporations should use their profits to repair the harm they have directly caused, rather than shifting those costs onto everyday people. From wildfires to contaminated water, communities across Oregon have been pushed to the breaking point by the climate crisis. For far too long, Oregonians and local governments have been forced to pay for climate damage while fossil fuel companies continue to profit. That must end. As legislators, you have the power to shift this burden away from your constituents and onto the corporations responsible. I urge you to pass SB 1541 and finally make polluters accountable for the damage they have done to communities across our state.