

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

Chair Golden and members of the committee,
My name is Cindy Bethell, and I am here to strongly advocate for Oregon's Climate Resilience Superfund bill.

Oregonians are paying the price for climate change. We see it in devastating wildfires, extreme heat, drought, rising insurance costs, and threats to public health and infrastructure. These impacts are not abstract or in the future—they are here now, and they are expensive. Yet the financial burden of responding to these damages continues to fall on taxpayers, ratepayers, tribes, and local communities, rather than on the corporations most responsible for the pollution driving the crisis. In spite of the fact that the responsible party, the oil industry, is valued at \$4.2 trillion. The Climate Superfund bill is a cost recovery bill. It is a fair and commonsense solution. It follows the simple principle we all learned in kindergarten; that those who make the mess should clean it up. Major fossil fuel companies knew at least since the early 1980s that their products would heat the planet and destabilize our climate, yet they continued to profit while shifting the costs onto the public and lying about the effects. This bill begins to correct that stark imbalance.

Revenue from this policy will help fund climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and recovery efforts—protecting frontline communities, workers, farmers, and small businesses across Oregon. It also reduces pressure on state budgets and household costs at a time when many Oregonians are already struggling.

This legislation is about accountability, fairness, and protecting our shared future. I urge you to support the Climate Resilience Superfund bill and stand up for Oregonians today and for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.