

Feb. 5th, 2026

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

RE: SB 1541 (Support)

Chair Golden, Vice-chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Sara Brown, and I live in Southwest Portland. I have lived in Portland, Oregon, for seven years. I came here for college, fell in love with this place, and chose to stay. What makes Oregon special to me is its sense of community. People care for each other, we collaborate, and we show up for our neighbors and community members.

During my senior year as an environmental studies student in 2024, I developed a respiratory illness due to wildfire smoke and was prescribed an inhaler. That illness weakened my immune system, and I later developed pneumonia in both lungs. I was bedridden for a month and nearly had to withdraw from school. I was only able to finish my degree because of the compassion and flexibility shown by my professors and peers. Even now, I continue to experience shortness of breath and frequent angioedema attacks that began during the fires and worsened after my illness.

I support the Climate Resilience Superfund because I believe in a simple principle often called the “campsite rule”: leave things better than you found them. It is not radical. It is responsible. Our communities are already feeling the harms of climate change and wildfires, and those harms will only persist. Addressing them requires shared responsibility. If we commit to taking action now, we can create a future that we can all be proud of, that we can point to when future generations ask us “What did you do to protect us?”

No one must do everything, but everyone must do something. It is not fair for corporations that profited from fossil fuel extraction and pollution to leave communities to bear the costs alone. We are already paying with our health, our homes, and our safety. I am simply asking that those corporations be held accountable and contribute their fair share to repairing the damage that has been done, so our communities can heal and so future generations can breathe easier than I did.

Thank you.