

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

I am an advocate for the environment, native plants, animals and habitats and support efforts for pesticide free land and textiles. I am also strongly opposed to practices that cause air pollution in my city limits including unregulated woodstove use, fire pits and natural gas.

I say this to point out that this "super fund" idea is not going to work. In fact, it will just be another way for the government to line their coffers while the planet slowly is poisoned. If throwing more money at the problem was the solution to bad air, water and soil, then we would have solved this issue or at least made more headway. See this data gathered by Google Gemini:

"Billions of dollars are spent annually on U.S. environmental causes, with over \$31 billion in federal funding for farm conservation programs alone from 2017 to 2024. Additionally, U.S. nonprofits spend up to \$9.2 billion annually on climate programs. However, this is eclipsed by the costs of climate-related disasters, exceeding \$2.915 trillion for 403 events since 1980".

Instead of giving the State of Oregon more money to squander and waste as they do every other dollar they get, let's do the following:

- 1.) The PUC should cap and lower electricity costs so people can avoid using woodstoves or natural gas fire places to reduce local pollution during the winter.
- 2.) Require Pacific Power to strictly filter their emissions from cheap sources of fuel like coal or utilize more dams until nuclear can get up and running.
- 3.) Enforce rules that are violated due to burning woodstoves on poor air quality days and outright ban fire pits in the city limits or burning during non-allowed periods.
- 4.) Require upgrades of woodstoves to the highest EPA compliant models, chimney filters and reduce natural gas hook ups in homes.
- 5.) Terraform areas that have lost trees due to urbanization by encouraging tree planting in urban areas and requiring "green spaces" in neighborhoods with trees and a significant amount of native plants or non-invasive non-natives that have adapted to harsh summer conditions.

6.) Encourage local urban centers where people can use alternative means of travel such as bikes, small electric vehicles or walking to vital services like healthcare and groceries.

7.) Ban the use of pesticides in urban areas. Paris and the UK have done it, so why not Oregon?

8.) Ban all daylight bulbs outdoors and require shielded, bug friendly colored lights for residences and businesses as well as "Dark Sky" shielded, solar powered street lights.

9.) Ban HOAs. These organizations (along with City Councils/planners) have greatly contributed to environmental damage in Oregon. For example:

Many HOAs require lawns to be maintained with specific types of grass and may prohibit the planting of wildflowers or native plants. This can limit the diversity of plant life and reduce habitats for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

HOAs often require lawns to be kept short, which can disrupt the natural life cycles of insects and other small creatures that rely on longer grasses for habitat.

Some HOAs may not allow composting, which can limit the ability of homeowners to recycle organic waste and enrich their soil naturally.

HOAs may require homeowners to use certain pesticides or fertilizers to maintain their lawns. These chemicals can run off into local waterways, harming aquatic life and contaminating water sources.

Some HOAs have rules about where and what types of trees can be planted. This can limit the ability to create habitats for birds and wildlife.

We the people in Oregon have the power to legislate and enforce rules. The Oregon government will not put this money to good use and it will just be wasted on government employee salaries instead of drafting or enforcing solutions that would make a real difference. Put people in charge who know how to fix the issue instead of the money grubbing do-nothings that are in the government now.