

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

I support the creation of the Climate Resilience Superfund, to hold polluters accountable by making the large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies pay their fair share.

This bill is important to me because it just makes sense that polluters should not get to extract money from residents and walk away.

It is common knowledge that burning fossil fuels over generations is warming the planet. Weather is not climate, but weather events are intensifying as the atmosphere and the oceans warm. I have lived in Eugene for 40 years and even in that time, short by climate standards, I have seen the change. Closest to home, in 2020 the Holiday Farm Fire threatened East Springfield, where my 82 year old mother was in a memory care facility. Elder Health & Living moved about a hundred residents with dementia to a church in Eugene for a week to avoid the risk. Imagine. That same facility lost power and water during the ice storm in 2024, on January 12. My mother died there on January 11 and I was grateful that she didn't have to be there during that time and that the caregivers (who all have lives and families to care for outside the facility) did not have the burden of caring for her with no water and no heat!

Economically, climate change is already causing rising insurance premiums, lost wages or school days, home hardening expenses, installing A/C (unnecessary previously here), physical and mental health costs, and on and on. And we all know it is going to get worse.

From wildfires to polluted water, we've seen communities across the state bear the brunt of our climate crisis. For too long, the cost of cleaning up the impacts of climate change has been the responsibility of us Oregonians and our local governments. We've been footing the bill while fossil fuel companies rake in the profits.

We can do something.

As legislators, you have the power to shift the costs from your constituents to these mega corporations. I urge you to pass SB 1541 and finally make these polluters pay for the damage they've done to communities across our state.

Thank you.

