

Submitter: Emily Heilbrun
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.

The funds generated by the Superfund will be used to make Oregon more resilient to wildfires, upgrade homes with energy efficient cooling and protection from the elements, strengthen transportation and the electrical power grid, invest in agriculture and fisheries, and more. The communities most impacted by the climate crisis will benefit the most, as they should.

I well remember the Labor Day wildfires which greatly impacted me and my home in Eugene. Thankfully, I didn't lose my home, as many did, but the effects I felt brought home to me how important it is to make Oregon more resilient to wildfires. I could not go outside for about ten days, even into my backyard. I let my dog out for a few minutes, and used an N95 respirator mask if I had to go out with him. The temperature dropped by at least ten degrees and the air and sky were yellow.

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. This Superfund will end that.

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.