



Date: Feb. 4, 2026

Senate Committee On -----
Oregon State Senate (Senate or House)
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for SB 1541 Make Polluters Pay, Climate Superfund bill

Dear Sen. Sollman, Chair, Sen. Brock Smith, Vice-Chair, Sen. Jeff Golden, Sen. Khanh Pham, and Sen. Noah Robinson:

My name is Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault, Environmental Justice Coordinator for Beyond Toxics, an environmental justice nonprofit based in Oregon. Our organization works to protect frontline communities from the disproportionate impacts of climate change and pollution.

In 2023, Beyond Toxics, supported by a grant from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), launched a program to provide free air conditioners and air purifiers to eligible low-income families in the West Eugene Neighborhood, which is affected by industrial pollution. However, reductions in federal funding have limited our capacity to sustain previous service levels, even as demand remains high three years into the program.

I am writing to express our support for SB 1541. As temperatures increase and individuals lose their homes and lives to wildfires, floods, and extreme heat, it is essential to act swiftly to address the harm resulting from years of insufficient accountability for polluters in vulnerable communities.

SB 1541 is modeled after Vermont's pioneering Climate Superfund. It would require out-of-state fossil fuel companies to assume responsibility for the damage their products cause. This approach would alleviate the burden on the communities most affected.

Many of these families already face financial hardship. Historically, homes in these neighborhoods have often lacked adequate cooling to protect against rising temperatures. Funds generated by this bill could support community resilience, disaster recovery, and home upgrades with energy-efficient cooling and improved weather protection.

This bill targets companies that have emitted more than 1 billion tons of greenhouse gases and does not affect state energy businesses.

To date, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Virginia are also pursuing similar climate superfund laws modeled after those in Vermont and New York.

We urge the Committee to hold these polluters accountable for the negative public health impacts, generational pollution, climate damage, and emotional trauma caused by entities that disregard the well-being of our communities. Please vote yes for SB 1541.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Respectfully,

Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault

Beyond Toxics