

Submitter: Andy Harris
On Behalf Of: Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1541

My name is Andy Harris, and I am a Portland physician, a father and grandfather of two teenage girls living in NE Portland.

By most estimates climate change will cost the state of Oregon tens of billions of dollars. These costs include:

- wildfire destruction of public lands and private businesses and homes,
- increasing medical costs including smoke-induced asthma and heat stroke during summer heat waves,
- rising sea levels and warming oceans affecting salmon and shell-fish industries,
- diminishing water supplies for irrigation, drinking water and recreation as snowpack is depleted,
- impact on wine industry as warming impairs the growing of pinot noir and other grapes,
- loss of revenue from tourism such as skiing, biking and other outdoor sports.

For these and other reasons I support the Climate Resilience Superfund Bill (SB 1541). For too long the fossil fuel industry has been allowed to pollute Oregon skies and drive up temperatures, while expecting taxpayers to pay for damages to our health and economy. As Oregon faces severe budget cuts at nearly every level, such a disparity in who pays is no longer tenable. Polluters need to pay their fair share of incurred expenses.

Frontline communities bear the brunt of pollution and health inequities caused by our warming climate. It is unconscionable for us to pass costs on to our grandchildren and future generations. We must act now. I urge you to pass SB1541.

Thank you,

Andy Harris, MD
Board of Directors
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility