

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Re: Climate Resilience Superfund Bill - SB1541
February 5, 2026

Greetings Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, members of the Committee, I am Dr. Theodora Tsongas, an environmental health scientist with a long career in public health. I am a member of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Climate and Health Committee of the American Public Health Association.

I urge you to waste no more time putting a mechanism in place to address the damages to our lives and health put upon us by the fossil fuel industry with no regard for the damages they cause as they reap huge profits. We have witnessed the increasing damages to our climate and planetary support systems for close to 40 years, with the accelerating adverse effects on our lives and health. It is time to make the organizations responsible for this recklessness pay to do what we can to rescue our planet before it is too late. We cannot afford it as a State, but we can certainly make it necessary that those who reap billions in profits, pay for the cleanup in our State.

There is no time to wait for more evidence: we have experienced the heat, the wildfires, the droughts, the wild storms, the damage to structures, loss of resources, failed crops, loss of jobs, injury, illness, and deaths. We cannot delay our response any longer.

We are at the tipping point, 1.5 degrees celsius, for the heating earth beyond which the heating accelerates. We cannot afford to wait to avert the damages and we cannot afford to wait for the State to have the resources to clean up the mess already made by the fossil fuel companies. We must assign the responsibility to those who have done the damage while making a profit. We must find the ability and resources to pass this bill now, so we can get to work doing what we should have done long ago. Our health and lives depend on it. Please pass this SB1541 this session.

This IS an EMERGENCY!

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.