



Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 1541. For background, Oregon REALTORS® is an industry association comprised of roughly 18,000 members who work as real estate brokers, principal real estate brokers, real estate property managers, and affiliated industry professionals. In turn, our members represent hundreds of thousands of Oregonians in real property transactions across the state.

The passage of SB 1541 would contradict ongoing efforts by state and local leaders to increase economic development and address the rising cost of living in Oregon.

While SB 1541 as written would only assess the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted by covered entities retroactively to 1995, it would have a chilling effect on entities currently conducting business in the state or those which may otherwise seek to conduct business in Oregon.

This is in part because the “covered period” of the bill spans from January 1995 to December 31, 2024, but nothing would prevent a future legislature from extending the beginning date of the covered period to any point in the past – perhaps as far back as February 14, 1859 – or removing or periodically extending the ending date of the covered period. This creates substantial uncertainty regarding a business’s financial liabilities.

Additionally, utility costs are increasing rapidly in Oregon and across the country, exacerbating the deterioration of affordability related to the overall cost of living, including housing and transportation fuels. As power producers and fuel providers are likely covered entities with potentially substantial liabilities, the impact of SB 1541 on the cost of gas for your car, natural gas for your stove or home heating system, and electricity for your home’s heating and cooling are likely to increase dramatically. [According to Oregon Department of Energy](#), more than 30% of Oregon’s electricity in 2023 was generated from coal and natural gas, and was even higher in previous years.

Over the last year, voters in Oregon and across the country have expressed their concerns about the rising cost of living – especially their concerns related to housing and energy affordability. The cost of energy was a leading issue in the 2025 Governor’s races for Virginia and New Jersey, and Oregonians rapidly signed a petition to repeal the increase to the gas tax passed by the legislature last year. Passing a climate change policy with substantial financial implications for housing and energy could dissuade Oregonians from supporting future climate policies – even if those policies are more measured than SB 1541. Ironically, in this way, SB 1541 could harm state efforts to address climate change.

Now is not the time to pass a bill which would accelerate price increases for goods which Oregonians have little to no choice but to pay.

Oregon REALTORS® urges you to vote NO on SB 1541.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.