



February 5, 2026

SB 1541 - Opposition

Chair Solman, Vice Chair Brock-Smith and members of the committee, Jodi Hack on behalf of the Oregon Home Builders Association representing nearly 3,000 members across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1541. I appreciate the Governor and Legislature's recent focus on Oregon's prosperity agenda and the recognition that our state is at a really important moment for its economic future. There's been a clear focus on restoring competitiveness, improving affordability, and setting Oregon up for long-term growth. Unfortunately, a climate superfund proposal cuts against those goals, and sends the wrong message to the business community when Oregon should be focused on stability and investment.

Oregon families are already facing some of the highest cost pressures in decades. Housing affordability remains one of the most urgent challenges across the state, with home prices, rents, utilities, and construction costs all rising faster than wages in many communities. Policies that significantly increase costs on energy producers, suppliers, or related industries will not remain isolated to those sectors. They will be passed down the supply chain and ultimately borne by Oregon households and small businesses.

For housing specifically, higher energy and material costs translate directly into higher construction costs. Builders are already navigating elevated prices for fuel, transportation, concrete, asphalt, insulation, and other energy-intensive materials. Adding another layer of large, uncertain financial liability will further increase development costs, making it more difficult to build workforce and middle-income housing. At a time when the state is trying to increase housing supply and improve affordability, this proposal would work against those goals by making new housing more expensive and slowing production.

I respectfully ask this committee to not move forward with this approach and instead continue working on balanced, forward-looking policies that strengthen Oregon's economy while advancing practical and equitable climate strategies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jodi Hack

CEO and Chief Lobbyist, Oregon Home Builders Association