

Submitter: Marin Hart
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or SB1541
Topic:

My name is Marin Hart, and I am a steward of Leaven Community, a neighborhood-based Community Resilience Hub in Northeast Portland.

I arrived to the Leaven community completely new to Oregon and with few connections here. What I found at Leaven was not just a place to share weekly, donation-based meals with people, access resources like the tool library or attend Intercambio, a Spanish-English language exchange group where I've improved my language skills—I have found real connection with my neighbors. That is what has kept me at Leaven—the belief that relationships are the foundation of our resilience, that we can't care for each other if we don't know each other.

And it's these kinds of relationships that are exactly what we need in times of disaster.

The climate crisis is not an abstract future problem—it is a present and active reality. Our neighbors are already navigating wildfire smoke that makes it unsafe to breathe, heat waves that endanger our elders and children, and rising costs that strain families who are already stretched thin. Community organizations like ours can step in to support people during emergencies, but we are doing so in a system that repeatedly asks communities to absorb the damage while major fossil fuel companies continue to profit.

Large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies have known for decades that their products drive climate change, yet they continue to pollute while passing the costs on to local communities like Leaven. Taxpayers and local governments are already paying—through disaster response, public health impacts, and infrastructure repairs—despite not being responsible for the harm.

The Climate Resilience Superfund is about basic fairness and shared responsibility. It ensures that the companies most responsible for climate pollution pay their fair share, so funds can flow to the communities most impacted. I urge you to support the Climate Resilience Superfund and invest in the safety, health, and future of our communities. Thank you.