

Submitter: Clark Kepler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1541

To the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

I am writing to support the Climate Resilience Superfund bill. Living in Corvallis, I see the direct connection between climate change and the health of our local environment. My specific concern involves the water quality of the Willamette River. Rising temperatures and extreme weather patterns threaten the river that sustains our community. Higher water temperatures and lower flows during drought periods damage the ecosystem we rely on for recreation and local stability. When a company makes a mess, they should clean it up. Big oil companies profit while their pollution causes the wildfires, heat, and water issues affecting Oregon. We currently pay these costs through higher taxes and recovery efforts. This bill shifts the financial burden back to the out of state fossil fuel corporations responsible for the damage. The funds from this bill will help Oregon prepare for future disasters. We need investments in wildfire safety, home cooling, and water protection. These resources ensure our communities stay resilient as the climate changes. For decades, large polluters ignored the harm their products caused. They collected record profits while Oregonians dealt with health problems and property loss. This bill follows the same logic used to hold tobacco and opioid companies accountable. It is a matter of fairness. You have the power to protect your constituents from these rising costs. Please pass this bill and make polluters pay for the damage they cause to our water and our state.

Clark Kepler