



ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES —OFOREGON—



February 5, 2026

Subject: Urging Passage of SB1541

From: Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, including also Oregon Interfaith Power and Light.

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire; Senator Jeff Golden, Chair, and Sens. Todd Nash; Fred Girod; Floyd Prozanski; Kathleen Taylor.

Honorable Senators,

Thank you for the effort in the 2025 Legislative session, and again this year, to develop a Climate Resilience Superfund to remedy the unjust burden of costs and impacts of rising carbon emissions. We urge you to pass SB1541 to start a process to address grievous injustices caused by carbon pollution and the trillions of dollars in damages globally, damages that also affect Oregon.

The work of tracking emissions, tallying damages, and attributing causes¹ has enabled us to learn that “Just 32 companies were linked to over half of global fossil fuel and cement CO₂ emissions in 2024.”² Study shows that “the higher the emissions from a carbon major, the higher its contributions to the intensities of the heatwaves” and in addition making some heatwaves “at least 10,000 times more likely.”³ As damage to lives, communities, and economies has been made known, the need for a remedy grows increasingly urgent.

Carbon pollution is making wreckage of Oregon’s wild and beautiful lands, scenic rivers, and close-knit communities. Diminishing snowpacks, floods, droughts, heat, fire, and smoke increasingly plague our communities, causing ecological destruction, human suffering, shortened life expectancy, and more, with the worst harms effecting children, the elderly, and those who simply cannot absorb more shocks.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon serves hundreds of faithful congregations across Oregon. We hear the songs and prayers of lament, we see the cry for hope, and recognize the work that must be done to stabilize communities for a future we can all share. We must address the devastating harms caused by just a few in order to ensure the well-being of Oregon’s people. Oregon’s wild rivers, golden prairies, and forested lands that are part of who we are.

Respectfully and hopefully,

Rev. Richenda Fairhurst

Member, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Board

Chair, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Creation Justice Committee and Oregon Interfaith Power and Light.

1. Carbon majors and the scientific case for climate liability. *Nature* 640, 893–901 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-08751-3>

2. Carbon Majors 2024 Data Update January 2026. Carbon Tracker. <https://carbonmajors.org/briefing/Carbon-Majors-2024-Data-Update-35466>, Accessed February 4, 2026.

3. Systematic attribution of heatwaves to the emissions of carbon majors. *Nature* 645, 392–398 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-09450-9>