

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

Dear Chair Golden, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Aimee Stone and I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm writing in firm support of SB 1541 and the creation of the Climate Resilience Superfund. This is a commonsense measure which would shift the economic burden caused by our worsening climate crisis from our communities to the mega, multinational corporations who are responsible for pumping climate warming pollutants into our environment.

I waited until after the hearing to submit this testimony, and I'm happy I did so because hearing from other Oregonians about how we're all individually impacted by climate change was extremely powerful. I lost my home and all of my belongings to a house fire years ago, and although it wasn't a result of wildfires, losing everything including my cats, photographs, and the place I called home has created a fear that I'll carry in my bones with me for the rest of my life. I felt the words of my fellow Oregonians in my bones as they recounted their experiences of both losing their homes and/or the general threat of approaching wildfires, and the despair of not knowing when things will, or ever will get better.

The threat of climate change is real. We are currently living through a climate crisis. Yet, we're still here demanding that those responsible for polluting our environment and devastating our natural world be held accountable. It's basic common sense that those who made the mess must be responsible for cleaning it up, not the everyday working-class people who are already struggling to make it as the cost of living continues to skyrocket. It also should be extremely telling that the only people who spoke in opposition to this bill were industry ghouls, like the petroleum association and a couple logging corporations, who have reveled in the freedom of being allowed to pollute and destroy our natural world all so the wealthy can continue to rake in and hoard their profits. We've been footing the bill while fossil fuel companies rake in the profits. That must end.

As legislators, you have the power to shift the costs from your constituents to these mega corporations. I urge you to pass SB 1541 and finally make these polluters pay for the damage they've done to communities across our state.

Thank you

p.s., for whatever it's worth, I have no idea why the farm bureau showed up. It's clear that they did not do their homework because this bill doesn't negatively impact agriculture, nor does it have any impact on their taxes. Instead of supporting legislation that would benefit farmers from worsening drought, raging wildfires, and other natural disasters that have cost our local farming communities an exorbitant amount of money in recovery efforts, the farm bureau made an attempt to instill fear among working-class farmers. However, not super surprising since the Farm Bureau also represents massive factory farms, such as Threemile Canyon, which have an particularly nefarious role in our current climate crisis and actually profit from the fossil fuel industry through greenwashing schemes like the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. But I digress, because that's a whole separate issue for another legislative session. ANYWAY, I urge you to pass SB1541 and finally hold fossil fuel companies responsible for the irreparable damage they've inflicted on us all.