

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

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

The science is clear. It has been for decades. The fossil fuel industry has willfully hidden the hazardous effects of using its products and now our planet's energy system is dangerously out-of-balance and over-heating. The signs are all around us and the economic costs will be worse than anything we've ever seen. This industry has wantonly dumped its toxic waste into our atmosphere for without paying for the damage. But it should have been paying the cost for the "external" costs the rest of us had to pay in health problems, biodiversity loss, increased food costs, rising sea levels, wild weather and mass migration. They're the richest companies in the history of money, and they should pay to clean up the mess they have made.

In Oregon, everyone is terrified of wildfires, acidifying oceans, freak storms, desertification and lack of rainfall. Let the polluters pay for how we must now do to safeguard our homes from wildfires, cool our buildings that once enjoyed mild weather and care for our irreplaceable lands. They broke it. They should pay to fix it.

And it can be fixed. The funds generated by the Climate Resilience Superfund will be used to make Oregon more resilient to wildfires, upgrade homes with energy efficient cooling and protection from the elements, strengthen transportation and the electrical power grid, invest in agriculture and fisheries, and more, to ensure the communities most impacted by the climate crisis benefit the most.

The polluters always knew this was happening, but continued to do it while piling up massive profits with no accountability. The party is over. You have the power to decide who foots the bill. It's time fossil fuel companies that rake in record profits while polluting our communities pay their fair share. It's the Big Tobacco story all over again. We can hold these corporations that cause harm accountable, and we should.

It's only fair. Please pass the Climate Resilience Superfund. Thank you.