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

Living in rural Oregon and experiencing wildfires each year, I am strongly in support of the establishment of the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program. I experience the impact of climate change each year - going outside as air quality worsens, the primal fear each time a fire is in the area, waking up throughout the night to see if the phone ping means we need to get in the car and go now - this is not thriving, it's surviving.

The science and historical stewardship of Oregon lands shows the path forward, we just need it actually implemented. This fund, with a focus on wildfire prevention and mitigation, nature-based solutions, and climate adaptive infrastructure will fund strategies that actually work and create climate resilience instead of passing the buck to future generations and burying our heads in the sand. The time was yesterday to make these changes; the next best time is now.

This fund is the best financial decision the state can make for it's citizens and future. We know it costs more to keep operating as we have been (I already know of home insurance companies pulling out of coverage in my area, wells running dry, rebuilding after losing your house to wildfire is financially devastating, spending more and more just to fall behind); climate resilience projects save state taxpayers now and in the long run. It is financially irresponsible to place the burden on tax payers when a fiscally responsible solution is available on a state level. The companies that were the major contributors to the climate change we are experiencing today have broken the trust, safety, and health of today's citizens and they must repair that damage. This is the cost of doing business as they are and creates a clear path forward if they want to prevent restitutive costs in the future.