

Dear Members of the Natural Resources and Wildfire Committee,

Grace and peace to you. We write on behalf of the Creation Care and Resilience Committee of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1541 (2026).

The Oregon-Idaho Conference includes more than 100 United Methodist congregations across Oregon, representing thousands of Oregonians who are deeply committed to caring for our neighbors and stewarding God's creation. Our faith calls us to protect the earth, safeguard vulnerable communities, and promote justice for present and future generations. SB 1541 aligns closely with these shared moral and civic responsibilities.

Oregon communities are increasingly experiencing the impacts of climate-driven disasters, including severe wildfires, smoke events, drought, flooding, and extreme heat. These events place significant financial and emotional burdens on families, local governments, emergency responders, and faith communities that provide disaster response and recovery support. SB 1541 establishes a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program that helps ensure the costs of climate-related damage are shared by those whose historical greenhouse gas emissions have contributed significantly to these harms, rather than placing the entire burden on taxpayers and affected communities.

We believe SB 1541 represents a balanced and forward-looking approach. By recovering funds to invest in resilience, mitigation, and community protection, this legislation helps Oregon prepare for future disasters while strengthening infrastructure, protecting public health, and supporting rural and frontline communities that often bear disproportionate climate impacts.

As faith leaders and congregations actively engaged in disaster preparedness, recovery, and community resilience, we see firsthand the growing need for long-term solutions that address both the causes and consequences of climate disruption. SB 1541 helps provide resources necessary to reduce risk, support recovery, and protect the most vulnerable among us.

We respectfully urge the Committee and the Legislature to advance SB 1541 and help ensure a more resilient, just, and sustainable future for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

James Teisher

On behalf of the Creation Care and Resilience Committee
Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church