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Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR, 97301

RE: Food & Water Watch Written Testimony on SB1541

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

Food & Water Watch submits the following written testimony to urge you to pass SB1541. Food & Water Watch is a national non-profit organization that mobilizes regular people to build political power to move bold and uncompromised solutions to the most pressing food, water, and climate problems of our time. Food & Water Watch has supported Make Polluters Pay campaigns in several states across the United States, and we have seen two successful bills pass in Vermont and New York. The rise of Climate Superfund legislation shows that our communities are taking action and demanding that the largest polluters be held accountable for the damage they have inflicted on our climate and our communities. FWW has more than 44,000 members and supporters across Oregon.

The Climate Superfund Resilience bill is a necessary and fiscally responsible piece of legislation that will support Oregon communities and allow for us to adapt to the growing threats of climate change by holding the biggest polluters accountable for the damage they have knowingly caused. Oil company scientists accurately predicted today's climate crisis more than 50 years ago. Instead of warning us or changing course, they ran disinformation campaigns while banking record profits. Their climate-harming pollution has contributed to Oregonians facing worsening natural disasters every year, such as devastating floods and destructive wildfires, which jeopardize the health and wellbeing of our communities. We must hold these major polluters accountable and ensure they share in the costs of climate-related disasters.

Since 2020, the worsening climate crisis and its effects have directly and indirectly killed hundreds of Oregonians and cost the state more than \$5 billion due to loss of critical infrastructure, wildfire mitigation, and the accumulation of damages caused by extreme weather events. Right now in Oregon, we are experiencing unusually warm temperatures that are causing a snow pack deficit throughout the state. If conditions don't improve soon, we're likely to have dire conditions for river and stream flows this summer, which could set us up for another devastating wildfire season. In 2025 alone, [more than 200 homes were destroyed by wildfires](#). These climate-related disasters are taking a toll on Oregonians health and well-being and have a real economic impact as well. The average Oregonian could lose [roughly \\$12,000 in personal income per year](#) due to changes in the climate. These consequences have already been set in motion due to past greenhouse gas pollution, and the economic costs to Oregonians will have to be paid whether or not our legislature acts. What we can change is who foots the bill.

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