

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

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Re: Senate Bill 1541

Dear Chair Senator Golden, Vice-Chair Senator Nash and members of the Committee:

Ahh.... creating yet another program. How original. Barely noteworthy. This one again to fleece business and by extension working Oregon taxpayers. So, they're going to "conduct an assessment on the costs of greenhouse gas emissions", eh? just Oregon's emissions I suppose. Then, once that is accomplished, if it ever is, to "issue cost recovery demand notices to entities determined responsible for.... (quiet drum roll)... climate change." Are the sponsors even aware that climate change has always been with us?

I can't help but wonder how many members of the Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire actually knows how much Oregon contributes to atmospheric CO2. Oregon's share of global emissions is estimated to be infinitesimally small. In fact, our own DEQ has estimated that if every vehicle in the state stopped driving the reduction in global emissions would not be detectable.

This bill, is apparently based on the idea that that fossil fuel use has "intensified wildfires," costing Oregonians billions of dollars?. Are the sponsors of this bill aware of what's happened when our neighbor to the south, i.e., California, which we Oregonians seems to follow like a puppy dog, has already tried this? They were laughed out of court. Courts have rejected these cases, recognizing that pinning every natural disaster on Big Oil is about as scientifically rigorous as blaming your morning coffee for rush hour traffic?.

The sponsors of this legislation are merely scapegoating oil producers - to make themselves look as if they're doing something – while ignoring the actual culprits. One of the most ridiculous aspects of this bill is that it conveniently ignores other major contributors to Oregon's wildfire causes. For example:

- Arson, significant portion of wildfires are caused by human activity, including arson. But sure, let's blame oil companies instead?.
- Forest Mismanagement, refusal to conduct controlled burns and proper land management has turned our forests into literal tinderboxes. But again, let's blame "big oil" for that?.

But here's the real fun part: Even if this legislation succeeds, who do the sponsors think will pay for it? Oil companies aren't charities—they'll pass these costs directly to consumers. That means you, and all of us, we will definitely end up paying

even more at the pump because of misguided legislation based on junk science and legal gymnastics?

Here's an idea: How about the legislation coming up with something that will lower the cost of living in the Great State of Oregon.

I am strongly opposed to SB 1541.

Sincerely,
Richard Wisner