

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

Dear Chair Golden, and Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Kim Larsen and I live in Eugene. I have been concerned about the environment since I was 9 years old and cried every night on garbage pick up days when I saw garbage cans in front of every house in my neighborhood. I am now 69 years old and am a human "canary in the coal mine" and can smell wild fire smoke even when LRAPA lists that the air quality is moderate.

I urgently ask that you support the creation of the Climate Resilience Superfund, to hold polluters accountable by making large, out-of-state fossil fuel companies pay their fair share.

This bill is important to me because Eugene has poor air quality in general (due to its location) and I prioritize human and environmental health above all else, except family. I love my home and like my community, but am very anxious about extreme weather, heat domes, wildfires, and drought.

From wildfires to polluted water, we've seen communities across the state bear the brunt of our climate crisis. The cost of cleaning up the impacts of climate change has been the responsibility of Oregon tax payers and our local governments. Why are WE footing the bill while fossil fuel companies rake in the profits to our detriment?!?!?!?!
END THIS BACKWARDS MIND SET NOW!

You have the power to shift the costs from your constituents to these mega corporations. I urge you to pass SB 1541 and finally make these polluters pay for the damage they've done to communities across our state.

Big oil's climate pollution has caused Oregon wildfires, lethal heat, and extreme weather to grow worse, costing us billions while they collect massive profits. The Climate Resilience Superfund will make the largest, out-of-state fossil fuel polluters pay their share for our safety and recovery, instead of Oregonians.

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.

For decades, large polluters have dumped climate pollution into our air and water while we bear the cost of heart and lung diseases, lost homes to wildfires, and higher food prices due to water shortages. These polluters always knew this was happening, but continued to do it while piling up massive profits with no accountability. Now it's time they pay for the damage they've done. Taxpayers and local governments pay for the climate crisis. The costs of responding to climate-related disasters and of making our communities more resilient will have to be paid one way or another, but Oregon legislators 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.

From the tobacco industry to the opioid crisis, there is a long, bipartisan history of holding corporations accountable for the harm they know their products cause. The Climate Resilience Superfund is about basic fairness. **DO THE RIGHT THING AND ENSURE THAT THIS PASSES! IF NOT, SHAME ON YOU!**